

Isaiah 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and Remaliah's son;

Analysis

The people's refusal of 'the waters of Shiloah that go softly' represents rejection of God's gentle, quiet provision in favor of worldly power. Shiloah (Siloam) was Jerusalem's gentle, steady water source—a metaphor for God's faithful, peaceful governance through the Davidic line. Their 'rejoicing in Rezin and Remaliah's son' shows misplaced confidence in God's enemies. This illustrates the Reformed doctrine of total depravity—humanity's bent toward trusting anything except God. The contrast between soft waters and coming flood (verse 7-8) shows the consequence of rejecting gentle grace.

Historical Context

The Pool of Shiloah/Siloam provided Jerusalem's water through Hezekiah's tunnel (later enlarged). Its gentle flow contrasted with violent winter torrents. Some in Judah apparently sympathized with the Syrian-Israelite alliance against Assyria, rejecting Ahaz's dynasty. This faction 'rejoiced' at the alliance's strength, seeing it as liberation from Davidic rule. Their rejection of God's appointed king paralleled rejecting God Himself.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. In what ways do we reject God's gentle, faithful provision in favor of worldly power and alliances?
2. How does contempt for God's appointed authorities reflect deeper contempt for God Himself?
3. What are the 'soft waters' of God's grace that we take for granted in our spiritual lives?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל	כִּי	מֵאַס	הָעַם	הַזֶּה	אֶת	מֵי	הַשֵּׁל ח
Forasmuch	H3588	refuseth	as this people	H2088	H853	the waters	of Shiloah
H3282		H3988	H5971			H4325	H7975
הַהֹלֵכִים	לֵא ט	וּמִשׁ וּשׁ	אֶת	רֵצִין	וּבֶן	רֵמְלִיָּהוּ:	
that go	softly	and rejoice	H853	in Rezin	son	and Remaliah's	
H1980	H328	H4885		H7526	H1121	H7425	

Additional Cross-References

John 9:7 (Parallel theme): And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

Nehemiah 3:15 (Parallel theme): But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun the son of Col-hozeh, the ruler of part of Mizpah; he built it, and covered it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David.