

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

פֶּשֶׁל	מִ	תִּ	בְּ	עַ	מִאֵס	מִ	פֶּשֶׁל	מִ	תִּ	בְּ	הַשְׁלֵ
Forasmuch	H3588	refuseth	as this people		H2088	H853	the waters	of Shiloah			
H3282		H3988	H5971				H4325				H7975

רַמְלִיהָוָה	וּבָנָ	רְצִין	אֶת	וְמִשְׁׁ וְשָׁ	לֹא	תַּ	בְּהַלֵּק	יְמִ	תִּ	בְּ	עַ
and Remaliah's	son	in Rezin	Rezin	and rejoice	softly	that go	Rezin	go	that	softly	that
H7425	H1121	H7526	H853	H4885	H328	H1980					

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.