

Pastor Ron Case
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“God of all Comforts”

**“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”
(Isaiah 40:1)**

**“O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted, behold, I will set
your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.”
(Isaiah 54:11)**

Ascent from the Maelstrom

Isaiah 7:1-2 – (1) “In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. (2) When the house of David was told, ‘Syria is in league with Ephraim,’ the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.”

Isaiah 8:11-22 – (11) “For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: (12) ‘Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.’ (13) But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

(14) And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (15) And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.

(16) Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. (17) I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. (18) Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

(19) And when they say to you, ‘Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,’ should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living?

(20) To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (21) They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. (22) And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.”

Remember God is at Work

“Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy; no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.” (Isaiah 54:16-17)

Spectacle or Speculation

“I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.” (Psalm 34:4-5)

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life...” (Philippians 2:14-16)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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