

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 19

Title: The Bait, the Trap, and the Broken Yoke

Scripture: Isaiah 9: 3-4

Date: 1-4-08

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Do you have any idea how utterly insane it is for you to fight against God? My prayer is, that by the end of this message you will see what utter vanity it is and that you will surrender all to him. I know that if he shines the Light of Christ into your soul, you shall do just that.

Throughout the bible we read of the oppression of the Lord's people. We read of them being in bondage, in slavery, under the yoke and heavy burden of Satan and his servants. Scripture speaks of the "power of the devil", the "power of Satan", who hath blinded the minds of them that believe not.

Adam became the prey of Satan in the garden. When Adam sinned, as the first representative, having broken the law of God, the elect of God judicially became Satan's lawful captives. Having been conceived in Adam's sin-nature, the god of this world blinded our minds and kept us in bondage. The devils power over God's elect had to be broken and the serpents head has to be broken in us for us to be brought into the liberty of the sons of God. **Isaiah 49: 24: Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? 25: But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. 26: And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.**

Matthew 12: 29:...how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.

Read Isaiah 8: 20-22; 9: 1-7.

Proposal: We behold the infinite wisdom of God when we see how at Calvary the LORD declared himself just and the Justifer of his children while simultaneously crushing the serpents head. But we see his infinite wisdom and power even more when we behold that while Satan and the LORD's enemies thought all along they were winning the victory, the LORD was actually hastening Satan and his enemies to their own destruction.

Isaiah 8: 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.* 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 15: And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

The LORD of hosts himself, Christ Jesus, the Son of God, declares that he shall not be for a sanctuary for all men without exception. But for a Stone which many stumble over. And for a Rock which offends many, for a gin (a trap) and for a snare (bait). And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared and be taken. The immediate context speaks of the inhabitants of Israel.

Romans 11: 7: What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded 8: (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. 9: And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: 10: Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

1 Peter 2:8: And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. (points to Is 8: 14.)

The LORD God formed the nation Israel to teach his elect out of every nation that God alone must and shall save his people from their sins. That one nation was given every advantage that a sinner can have, naturally speaking. **Isaiah 5: 3: And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. 4: What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?...he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.** Under Satan's power they rejected God and yoked their fellow Israelites using both God's law and all the evil tools of this world to do so. Like all unregenerate sinners their lives were bitter and full of warring against one another and against God.

Ten and a half tribes of Israel joined forces with Syria against their own countrymen in Judah, while Judah joined forces with Assyria against Israel. So the LORD God declares through the prophet Isaiah that the nation Israel was now turned over to judicial reprobation.

The clear teaching is that without Christ crushing Satan's head and raising his children to newness of spiritual life, no man--Jew or Gentile--can or will believe on the LORD.

1 Corinthians 1: 14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

That is why Christ came into the world. **1 John 3:8: He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

And in infinite wisdom and power, the LORD of hosts, Christ Jesus, used the devil and those who hated him as the instruments of their own destruction, as Christ simultaneously crushed the serpents head and delivered his people.

Now let's go back a moment and look at the names of Isaiah's two sons.

Isaiah was given two boys from the LORD of hosts. They were for signs and wonders in Israel in so much as their names foretold what Christ Jesus the Lord would accomplish. One son's name is found in Isaiah 7: 3: "Sherjazzub." His name means "the remanant shall return." The other son's name is found in Isaiah 8: 1: "Mahershallhashbaz." It means "in making speed to the spoil, he haseneth the prey." As if to spell it out to us that these two sons pointed to Christ Jesus, in the middle of declaring their names, the LORD said in **Isaiah 7: 14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.** In Christ Jesus, God is with his people. God came to us and took upon him flesh and gave himself a ransom for many. And by his work, God's elect remnant shall return to God. Likewise, in making speed to the spoil, he haseneth the prey. What does that mean?

First, the spoils are the trophies taken from the enemy by the winning army. The children given to the Son of God by God the Father in eternity are the spoils. He made great speed to take the children promised for his inheritance.

Secondly, the prey is Satan and his servants. By Christ the Lord making speed to save those children given him by God, Christ hastened Satan and his children to their own destruction.

In verse 14, Christ is said to be the bait and the trap whereby the enemies of God shall...be snared (baited) and be taken (trapped)

It began right here in Isaiah 8. See Isaiah 8: 3, 4: Before Isaiah's son was old enough to say, "Momma and Dadda", the LORD of hosts sent the king of Assyria against Israel and Syria, which began the destruction of both the houses of Israel. But verse 8, says he shall also pass through Judah. King Ahaz thought he had saved himself by pledging allegiance to the enemy of God but by doing so, he destroyed himself.

- Attempt to save yourself by the work of your own hand--religious service, moral reform, using the law of mount Sinai to attempt to justify and sanctify yourself--and you shall be destroyed by your own hand. It is pledging allegiance to the devil.
- That very self-serving, self-righteous, self-sustaining imagination in you is the sin which Satan used to trick Eve into turning from God to herself.

Be sure you understand. The king of Assyria was under the power of the devil. He hated God and he hated those who went by the name of Israel just as Satan does. But both the king of Assyria with all the evil murder and destruction he waged, like the devil himself, are under the power of God Almighty.

The name "LORD of hosts" means God rules everything. This does not make God the author of sin. The king of Assyria did the devils bidding. Satan is the author of sin. Yet, if anything happens out of God's control then God ceases to be God.

Proverbs 16: 4: The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Psalm 103:19: The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Psalm 115:3: But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

But behold the infinite wisdom and power of God. Taking down the hedge around the nation Israel and allowing the devil to devour them through the king of Assyria was all part of God's council to destroy the power of the devil and deliver his children through Christ Jesus.

Turn with me to Isaiah 10: 5: (what God says here of the king of Assyria is true of the devil himself. If God will give you wisdom to hear it then you will see the great glory of God in his wisdom and power to make the devil his own fool and his own destroyer.)

Isaiah 10: 5: O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. 6: I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

- This is what the LORD of hosts began to do when he allowed the roaring lion to devour Israel through the king of Assyria.
- But now watch what it caused him to think.

Isaiah 10: 7: Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but *it is* in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few. 8: For he saith, *Are* not my princes altogether kings?...11: Shall I not, as I have done unto Samaria and her idols, so do to Jerusalem and her idols?...13: For he saith, By the strength of my hand I have done *it*, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bounds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant *man*: 14: And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs *that are* left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped. 15: Shall the axe boast itself against him that heweth therewith? *or* shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake *itself* against them that lift it up, *or* as if the staff should lift up *itself*, as if it were no wood.

The LORD God delivered his enemies into the hand of the Assyrian who was the servant of the devil. But Satan himself thought in his pride that he had overcome the LORD's elect. So in his blind rage in sin he was determined to exalt himself to do more.

But all this is part of the LORD's determinate council.

Isaiah 10: 12: Wherefore it shall come to pass, *that* when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.

The LORD says he will use this the devils ignorance to accomplish his work on mount Zion and then destroy the king of Assyria. What work was that?

It was the work of redemption by Christ Jesus--the bait and the trap.

The LORD sent forth his Son. Beholding Christ the Bait, Satan and his seed went about as soon as he was born--hastening--to put him to death. Throughout his life they sought to kill him.

The old serpent and his servants thought the prey was God's people and his Son. His thoughts were thoughts of pride, of accomplishment by his own hand. Are these your thoughts? Well, this was his own undoing and it shall be yours as well.

The truth is, the devil was the prey. He hastened after the bait till Christ allowed himself to be put up on the cross--and there was the trap; the trap whereby the power of the devil and his accusers was snared and taken.

Acts 4: 27: For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28: For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

When was it determined before? The LORD God clearly told Satan way back in the garden that this is how he would be destroyed.

Genesis 3: 14: And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Do you see the blindness of sin that even after being told he had no idea he was taking the bait and being trapped. Those who cried out crucify him had the scriptures--such as our text in Isaiah 8: 14--that foretold of how Christ would come and die and that many would be snared by him and taken, yet they fulfilled the scriptures in condemning him. What blindness God's elect must be saved from!)

That is what the Lord Jesus Christ declared as he was going to the cross: **John 12: 31: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me.**

On the cross, the serpent and his seed bruised the heel of our Lord, but in the process the Lord Jesus Christ crushed the serpents head.

- The devils only power was sin
- He used God's law to accuse us of our sin

- He drove us to the law seeking to put away our sin, but the law reveals sin it never takes it away
- So then he accused of more sin
- Thereby he kept us in this vicious cycle of bondage and fearful of death

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- God hath made Christ sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
- Justice is satisfied and the law is fulfilled
- Death is swallowed up in victory
- Satan has no more power

Col 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Psalm 68: 18: Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, *for* the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell *among them*. Paul tells us in Ephesians those ascension gifts are apostles and pastors. Men like Paul whom Christ sent for this purpose:

Acts 26:18: To open their eyes, *and* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

- **I Timothy 2: 24: And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, 25: In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26: And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

Christ has bound the strong man at Calvary. Then through the Holy Spirit he enters in and crushes the serpents head within us and delivers us from that bondage. Convincing us that our judgment has been fully accomplished in Christ at Calvary.

John 16: 7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8: And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9: Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10: Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11: Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

But through this gospel Christ makes us more than conquerors through him that loved us and gave himself for us.

Isa 53: 12: Therefore will I divide him *a portion* with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Now read on here in Isaiah 10 and you will see that it says just that: **Isaiah 10: 16: Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of hosts, send among his fat ones leanness; and under his glory he shall kindle a burning like the burning of a fire. 17: And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; 18: And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standardbearer fainteth. 19: And the rest of the trees of his forest shall be few, that a child may write them. (And who is the All whom Sherjazzub our Lord draw unto him?) 20: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more again stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. 21: The remnant shall return, *even* the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God. 22: For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, *yet* a remnant of them shall return: the consumption decreed shall overflow with righteousness. 23: For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land. 24: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt. 25: For yet a very little while, and the indignation shall cease, and mine anger in their destruction. 26: And the LORD of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb: and *as* his rod *was* upon the sea, so shall he lift it up after the manner of Egypt. 27: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.**

Galatians 5:1: Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Isaiah 8: 12: Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them to* whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. 13: Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be* your fear, and *let him be* your dread. 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary

Application:

Is God sanctified in your hearts? Do you see him high and lifted up? Do you see how useless it is to fight against him who used such wisdom to deliver his people? My he alone

be your fear and your dread. Fear not what man can do to you, but reverence the LORD of hosts. Everything is under his complete dominion. Trust him and he shall be for a sanctuary.

Are you fighting against God and against his people? I hope you see that all you are doing is aiding in the salvation of his people and of his glory. And many shall be stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Psalm 76:10: Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

Now as we take the bread and the wine to remember Christ Jesus may we do so beholding how he has made us more than conquerors through his great work for us. And may we behold him in the infinite wisdom and power which he has displayed in making us the spoils of his victory!