

## Fact Sheet for "In God We Trust"

Isaiah 8:11-18

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We live in a world of mixed messages.

The Bible is clear that the seven days of creation happened about 6,000 years ago. But we are told that we got here through evolution that took millions of years. And yet there is not a single scientific "fact" that is at variance with the Bible. Instead there are many scientific facts that are at variance with evolution! (cf. collagen found in dinosaur bones)

The Bible never sways from saying that homosexuality is a sinful choice of the individual. But we are told that it is genetic, a perfectly proper lifestyle, and that we are denying a person's human "rights" if we don't support them in this. And yet there is not a single shred of evidence that homosexuality is genetic.

The Bible is absolutely consistent in its teaching that life begins at conception, and that murder is wrong. But we are told that abortion is a woman's right to choose, and that the developing child is just tissue until the moment of birth. And yet the only differences between a fertilized egg and us are age and place of residence.

The Bible records that Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). But we are told that there are many ways to God. And yet it is absolutely impossible that they are all true. In fact Jesus Himself rejects any other proposed way to God.

We are told that we are out of touch with reality if we hold to the Bible and reject the positions that are currently affirmed in our society. We are told that we are living in the dark ages. We are told that we are dead wrong. In fact, current laws often stand against the Biblical affirmations.

Here's the danger. Christians are sometimes swayed by the rhetoric start to doubt the Bible, and begin to accept the current views. Why is this important? It is important because each of these views distances us from God and biblical truth. We begin to pick and choose our beliefs depending solely on what we feel is right, not on the basis of God's Word. This distance causes us to begin to doubt not only in these areas but also everything else that the Bible says. Why make the effort to live by something that you doubt? We cease to live by the Bible. We stop trusting in God. The church becomes a mere club that we are pleased to attend. And yet, there are and always will be those who hold the Bible to be God's inspired Word... who seek to live by it... and who are blessed by God for doing so. Where do you stand?

Consider Isaiah's words in 8:11-18. It was a time of great threat. The kings of Syria and Israel were at the gates of Jerusalem.

**<sup>11</sup> ¶ 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: <sup>12</sup> "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread.**

A "conspiracy" refers to an occasion when people are bound together, with the goal of deposing and slaying the reigning king and usurping the empty throne. This was what was happening with the kings of Syria and Israel. The NLT gives a good sense of the force of this verse.

**NLT Isaiah 8:12** "Don't call everything a conspiracy, like they do, and don't live in dread of what frightens them.

**13 But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.**

Isaiah says to honor Him, to fear Him, instead of current events. Why? Because He is the one who is in control. He is the only one in Whom there is safety. He will protect those who are righteous. He will judge those don't honor Him, who don't trust in Him.

The application here is clear to us. We live in a time of great risk (financial, Isis, ebola). God, through Isaiah, calls us to a path of safety... trust in Him. If you doubt the Bible because you are buying into current political thought and have distanced yourself from God, then doing this will make very little sense to you.

God then gave Isaiah the two outcomes of either honoring Him and fearing Him, or not

**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.**

God can either be a sanctuary to you... or a stumbling stone. (See Romans 9:30-33a; 1 Peter 2:7-8)

**15 And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken."**

(See Luke 20:18 and context)

**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.**

(See Hebrews 2:13)

**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.**

Isaiah – "Yahweh is salvation"

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz – "quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil"

Immanuel – "God with us"

Shera-Jashub – "A remnant shall return"

There are two great lessons that come out of this passage.

1. Trust the Bible. Don't let yourself become distanced from God.
2. Honor God as holy. Live for Him. Trust Him to be your sanctuary.