

Life-Study of Isaiah Summary – Messages 36 to 40

A Sanctuary, Stone, Rock, Trap, and Snare

Christ is a **sanctuary** to the positive ones. Our God is our eternal dwelling place. Because He is our dwelling place, we can rest, eat, and drink within Him. We have to see the central thought of God toward the **positive ones**, His chosen people. God to them is not just an ordinary dwelling place. **God to them is a sanctuary**, and the sanctuary is the inner temple for God's dwelling. The most inward part of the temple is the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God. We should live, stay, and dwell all the time with God and in God. When we are in God as our sanctuary, enjoying Him as our roommate, we see Him everywhere. **He is our sunshine, our drinking water, our food, and our air for us to breathe.**

To the **negative ones**, He is a **stone** to strike against, a **rock** of stumbling, a **trap**, and a **snare**. Christ was despised by the Pharisees and Jewish leaders. Because they despised Him, they struck against him but could not move Him. Instead, He became a stumbling stone to them, and they fell upon Him. He is also a trap for the negative ones as the running animals and a snare for the negative ones as the flying fowls. He is a trap and a snare to catch those who are negative.

The Great Light

Light is crucial for our existence. Where light is, there is life. Plants, animals, and men all need light in order to live. In the Bible, we Christians are called to sons of God and the sons of light. **As the sons of light, we should live in the light, walk in the light, remain in the light, and be persons altogether in the light.** When we are in the light, we are in fellowship with our Triune God. Then we participate in what He is and enjoy Him. Christ as the great light **shines in darkness**, shining upon those dwelling in the shadow of death. Christ as the great light is also for the **release from bondage**. The shining of the light is the release, and the darkness is the bondage.

A Twig, Branch, Banner, and Standard

Christ is typified by a **twig** from the stem of a great tree which has been hewn down to the roots. The big tree of the house of David was hewn down, but the stem with the roots was still there. Christ came out of this source as a twig from the stem and as a **branch** from the roots. In His incarnation He was a twig. In His resurrection He is a branch in full. A twig from the stem of Jesse indicates the **restoring power of life in freshness**. A branch from the roots indicates the **growing power of fruitfulness**.

Eventually the twig becomes a **banner** to the peoples, and the branch becomes a **standard** to the nations. The banner is mainly for designation, explanation, and instruction, and the standard is mainly for calling and gathering. **Christ as the banner to the peoples and the standard to the nations will bring in the return of God's people and the submission of the Gentiles.**

The Fountain, Springs, and Flow of Salvation

We need to know the difference between the words *fountain* and *springs*. The fountain is the source, the spring is the issue of the source, and the river is the flow. The source of the springs of salvation is a fountain, and the fountain is salvation. **The processed Triune God is the fountain, the springs, and the river of water of life.** The way to receive the processed Triune God as our salvation is by drinking Him. Along with drinking the Lord, we also need to breathe Him in. **By calling "O Lord Jesus" we breathe, and by breathing we drink.**

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