

A Covenant with Death

Isaiah 28 - 35

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Hezekiah king of Judah formed an alliance with Egypt for protection from the Assyrian empire. The prophet Isaiah denounced this action:

The political and religious leadership of Judah is irresponsible and incompetent. They have made a covenant with death. It can only result in disaster. The Lord says, "Your bed is too short to stretch out on, and your blanket is too narrow to wrap around you." Don't you see? This alliance is worse than useless.

The people of Judah have become numb. Their worship of the Lord is superficial – meaningless. They don't want the truth; they would rather hear lies that make them feel good. Listen to what I'm saying! Egypt is powerless to help you. The Egyptians are men, not God. Turn to the Lord. The Lord is your salvation. Be still, and trust in the Lord's strength. It is the Lord alone who will protect Jerusalem and rescue her from her enemies.

Yet God's plan for the faithful involved more than just protection and rescue. Isaiah continued:

Be strong, and don't be afraid. God is coming to save you. The blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; the mute will sing for joy. Streams will flow in the desert, and the wasteland will blossom. A road will stretch through that once barren land. Only those the Lord has ransomed will walk on this road, and their safety is ensured. They will enter Jerusalem singing. Their sorrows will leave them, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.