

The Furnace of Zion, Isaiah Ch. 31

“The Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man, and a sword not of man will devour him. He will not escape the sword and his young men will become forced laborers. And his rock will pass away because of panic, and his princes will be terrified at the standard,” declares the Lord, whose fire is in Zion and whose furnace is in Jerusalem.
Isaiah 31:8-9

• **The textual circumstances**

- 31:1-3. The delusion of an Egyptian treaty. _____

- 31:4-6. The promise
 - To protect Zion: _____
 - To the sons of Israel if they return to God: _____

- 31:7-9. Declaration of disaster to Assyria: _____

• **The big deal with Israel**

- The history of Canaan
 - Abraham: _____
 - Moses: _____
 - Joshua: _____
 - Jerusalem: _____
 - The divided kingdom: _____
 - The Invaders: _____
- The holy city
 - Melchizedek, Gen. 14:18. _____
 - Occupied by David. _____
 - The object of desire and destruction by all of the world’s major conquerors. _____

• **A lesson in diplomacy**

• **At the table**

- The role of diplomacy: treaty and compromise.
- The ultimate goal of diplomacy is winning the table.
- The tools of diplomacy are words.
- The threat: when diplomacy fails there is war.

• **What’s on the table?**

- Jerusalem and Israel.
- The disposition of the Promised Land, whether for God’s purpose or for man’s.

• **What is the true goal?**

- **God’s?** _____
- **The World’s?** _____

• **What does this have to do with us Christians?**

- Romans 11:25-29. _____

- Romans 11:11-12. _____

- **The bottom line:** Israel is the chosen people, that God through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and his sons and grandsons should show the world His plan and His purpose, which is never defeated or modified by treaty or diplomacy. Through Israel God declared His ultimate purpose in the person of Jesus Christ, who through his death and resurrection sealed the promise of God for salvation to all who accept it. The world today seeks to negotiate against the promises and declarations of God, and cede both the territory and the plan of redemption to the lesser gods of this age.

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 - The role of diplomacy: _____.
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