

Israel has an obligation to bring it about in a perfect way, but Israel is now blind and deaf, failing to see its duty, unable to perform it because she is in exile and in bondage. The prophet He/continues in verse 20 developing the idea of the blindness and deafness, the facts have come before Israel, they have seen all the evidences of God's power, and of his will, of his purpose, but they are not carrying it out. They are not understanding...

Isaiah 8. (1)

...Surely we have real frustration here. God has called Israel to do this great work. Israel has seen all the facts of God's power and ability to accomplish what he plans to do but Israel is in exile. How can the work ever be done?

The next verse declares that God is indeed going to accomplish the work. He is well-pleased for his righteousness' sake, he will magnify the law, he will cause that his word become known to the very ends of the earth, he will make it honorable. He will cause that glory shall be given to the law of God and to his declaration of righteousness in every portion of the work. Verse 22 returns again to the frustration. How can Israel perform this work in view of its present condition? Israel should be calmly and carefully, effectively and confidently, carrying the word of God to the world. But instead it is a people robbed and spoiled, snared in holes, hid in prison houses, they are a prey and no one delivers them. How can they ever perform the work? Who can give ear to this, who will hear for the time to come? You might imagine this is Israel answering. How can we be expected to do this work? We're in exile. You've promised to deliver us. Now you start talking about the work we're to do. We can't do such a work. We need deliverance ourselves. In verses 24 and 25 God gives the answer to this problem. How did Israel come to be in the hands of the robbers? Was God unable to protect them? Was he unable to deliver them and keep them safe from the Babylonian aggressors? No. It was he against whom ye have sinned who gave them to the robbers. They would not walk in his laws. They were not obedient to his commands. Therefore he poured on them ~~his~~ the fury of his anger and the strength of battle. All this has come upon Israel for ^{its} ~~his~~ sin and yet Israel has not re-