

Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today

Elizabeth Kendal

Author: Elizabeth Kendal is a leading religious freedom analyst and prayer advocate on behalf of the persecuted church. *Turn Back the Battle* draws on her long familiarity with global trends in religious persecution. It has been forged out of a passionate interest in how Christians respond to persecution.

Publisher, Date and Pages: Deror Books, Melbourne, 2012, 287 pages

Cover Description: Over the years the author has seen God redeem suffering for the sanctification of believers, the salvation of the lost, and the glory of his Name. She has also seen mission and advocacy organizations – as well as churches and individual Christians – react in ways that hinder and hurt rather than help imperiled Christian communities.

In the latter part of the 8th century BC, when Judah was twice invaded and under existential threat, God commissioned a lone prophetic voice to speak his words into a politically charged military crisis. In Isaiah 1-39 God has provided spiritual resources and a historic precedent to help us respond rightly when under siege. In these days, as Christians worldwide face escalating persecution and existential threat, it is time to hear the message of Isaiah.

Endorsements: Erwin Lutzer, Mark Albrecht, Peter Riddell, and Michael Nazir-Ali – among several others.

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Comments: Basically this is an excellent exegesis of chapters 1-39 of Isaiah – and how current Christians can learn from Isaiah regarding how to face persecution and judgment. The author discusses a number of “trends” - i.e. economic, population growth, urbanization, intolerance, religious liberty and culture change. She intersperses examples of each of these trends from around the world. She then notes how the trends have contributed to the tenuous position of Christians in many parts of the world. Using Isaiah 1-39 she outlines the coming judgment of God – and how the church and Christians need to prepare for it. This book is a solemn reminder of the seriousness of our day – and the importance of the church being awake and prepared. It is an interesting exposition of Isaiah 1-39 and the reader can benefit from it.

Rating: On a scale of 1 to 5:

1. Not a good use of time
2. Okay, but not that useful
3. Satisfactory, not great – but a good read
4. Loved reading it
5. Impactful, highly recommend

This book: 2-3

“Recommend” Statement: This is basically an exegesis of Isaiah 1-39. For exegetical and devotional purposes, it is a good read. Otherwise, the material is somewhat redundant. The same theme is stated repeatedly.

Reviewer: J. Bennett, January, 2019