

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith  
Audio Script – April 23, 2009

The late Dr. Adrian Rogers once said, “any time you experience the approval of heaven, you can immediately expect the assault of hell.” The goal of Satan is to try and destroy everything godly, holy and righteous in the lives of all believers. In today’s Templates of Truth, Isaiah gives us a powerful promise that he will not succeed.

Urban legend supposes that during the Industrial Revolution, disgruntled French workers would often revolt by dropping a sabot (wooden shoe) into powered looms in an effort to damage the machinery and shut down production. The practice came to be known as “sabotage.” It can refer to any activity that impedes or impairs another, especially if it succeeds in redefining or redirecting the original intent to serve its own purpose.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God reveals Himself to be the great “saboteur” – *“If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me. Whoever assails you will fall because of you. Behold, I Myself have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and brings out a weapon for its work; and I have created the destroyer to ruin. No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; and every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their vindication is from Me,” declares the Lord* (Isaiah 54:15-17). Since God is sovereign over all, nothing happens that He is not aware of and in ultimate control over, especially evil and its evil source, Satan. God will assure that whatever evil is brought against His people will be turned in such a way as to serve His purpose in our life. Joseph described this gracious process when he summarized the evil plot of his brothers with these famous words: *you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good* (Genesis 50:20). No one can turn things around like God! No one can sabotage evil like God can.

For the past several years, each day when our youngest son leaves for school, I always tell him that I love him; and then I say, “remember...” With that, I have taught him to speak this truth into the daily experience of his life – “no weapon formed against me shall prosper.” There is no more powerful promise in Scripture for God’s people. That which may be *formed against* us is referred to as a *weapon*, or instrument of evil meant to do harm and destruction. Paul talks about spiritual warfare in Ephesians: *our struggle...is against the world forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places* (6:12). He teaches that we must *take up the full armor of God...with which we will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one* (6:13,16). Flaming missiles are weapons of evil. As long as we stand faithful in the armor of God, Isaiah reminds us that our vindication is from God. He fights the battle with us and for us.

We must be careful, however, not to assume that all such attacks will leave us unscathed. Paul admits that he was often imprisoned, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, went hungry and was exposed to harsh elements throughout his ministry. These things obviously affected Paul’s life, but he confidently declared, *we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed* (II Corinthians 4:8-9). Did you note that last phrase – struck down, but not destroyed? The weapons of the evil one

may reach us, may hit us and may even strike us down, but they will fail in destroying us. Why? Because God is our Defender, Protector and Shield. He is the great Saboteur that sovereignly controls everything and makes sure that its intended purpose always turns to serve His own.

Are you under attack today? Speak God's promise into the reality of your situation – “no weapon formed against me shall prosper.” Claim it, believe it, and live by it. The efforts of evil against you are sabotaged because of Whose you are and Who you serve!

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

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