

## Review by Isaiah Commentator J. Alec Motyer

### Prophet Isaiah for the present day

TURN BACK THE BATTLE

Isaiah speaks to Christians today

By Elizabeth Kendal

Deror Books, Australia. 285 pages. £12.50

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I count this one of the most important and significant books to come my way, a delight to read, hugely informative and stimulating.

Dr. Kendal is a religious freedom analyst whose knowledge is worldwide. In a very sure-footed way she reads the signs of the times, well aware where the 'pressure points' are, where and what persecutions are rife, how so many cities are already dying under pressure of gross over-population, with their infra-structure in decay, beyond serious government, breeding grounds for crime, corruption and persecution (particularly of anything Christian). The picture is anything but reassuring, but never other than persuasive and realistic.

Into this scenario, Kendal brings the testimony of Isaiah [2-39]. 'Reader response' interpretation is not always safe, degenerating into subjectivism, but not in Dr. Kendal's hands. She holds a high doctrine of the Bible and is as skilled in exposition as in interpreting today's world. In this book, the subtitle is as accurate as the title! Isaiah not only speaks again today but does so in tones that are fresh and extremely potent, going right to the heart of our situation, needs and questions. We come away from reading *Turn back the Battle* more alert to what and where the battle is, certainly more equipped — and enthusiastic — to engage in it. More convinced that the Bible is God's Word for today — and more informed and aware of Isaiah's importance and relevance.

A book to possess, read, re-read and cherish. Having missed out on my chance to write a 'commendation' on publication, I am more than thrilled to commend it to you in this review.

**Alec Motyer,**

Anglican by birth, non-denominational by temperament, biblical by conviction, saved by grace.

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