

Segment 5 – Isaiah 7:1ff – 8:1ff

The Downfall of Damascus and Samaria; and the Prophecy of Immanuel

Isaiah 7:1-2

The king of Northern Israel (or Ephraim), King Pekah, allied himself with the king of Aram (or Syria), whose name was Resin. They came up against the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Ahaz was the king of Judah.

This event occurred within the first three years of the reign of King Ahaz, as Pekah was still the king of Israel when this event took place. (Compare II Kings 15:27 with 16:1.)

Isaiah 7:3-9

The name of the son of Isaiah, “Shearjashub,” means “a remnant shall return.”

The kings of Israel and Aram (Syria) wanted to defeat Judah and set up their own king.

Yahweh’s admonition to Ahaz:

“Be calm, have no fear, do not be faint-hearted;”

“These two kings are two stubs of smoldering firebrands;”

“It shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass;”

“Within another 65 years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.”

“If you will not believe, you surely will not last.”

Isaiah 7:10-16 The sign of Immanuel

(See supplemental reading.)

God was willing to give Ahaz a sign to help him believe. Ahaz refused. God gave His own sign.

The Hebrew word for “virgin” in verse 14 is *almah*. It means a maiden or young woman.

There are two fulfillments of this prophecy:

- A son of Isaiah, born at this time in history – chapter 8
- A child that would be born in the future – chapter 9 (Matthew 1:22-23)

Isaiah 7:17-25

Yahweh will bring the king of Assyria upon the nation.

Isaiah 8:1-4

The name of this other son of Isaiah, “Maher-shalal-hash-baz,” means “swift is the booty, speedy is the prey.” Before this boy knows how to cry out “My father” or “My mother,” the wealth of Damascus (Aram/Syria) and the spoil of Samaria (Israel/Ephraim) will be carried away before the king of Assyria (Isaiah 7:16).

This is exactly what happened at this time in history (II Kings 16:5-9; II Kings 15:29). Syria was completely defeated by the Assyrians, and the northern region of Israel was carried away into captivity.

Rather than believing the words of Isaiah the prophet (and of Yahweh) , Ahaz devised his own plan to seek help from Assyria. II Chronicles 28:16-19

It seemed as though his plan worked. However, rather than strengthening Judah, this action by Ahaz caused more afflictions (II Chronicles 28:20-21). Rather than helping, it opened the door for Assyria to inflict itself on Judah.

Isaiah 8:5-6

“Rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah.” Ahaz did even more evil, which provoked Yahweh to anger. II Kings 16:10-18; II Chronicles 28:21-25

Isaiah 8:7-8

They were now in “deep water.”

“O Immanuel”- God was with them in judgment

Isaiah 8:9-10

“God is with us” = Immanuel. Ahaz had an opportunity to believe in Yahweh; yet, he did not! He devised his own plan. Although Ahaz did not believe, God made Himself known to Ahaz. Whether Ahaz and the people wanted to acknowledge Yahweh or not, God Himself (through the sign of Immanuel) made known to the nation that He was with His people.

Isaiah 8:11-18

God speaks through Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah did not need to fear. Yahweh would be a sanctuary for him. But to the people, both houses of Israel, the words of Yahweh would be a rock to stumble over, a snare, a trap.

“I will wait for Yahweh!” Isaiah’s children were for signs and wonders in Israel.

Isaiah 8:19-22

Rather than looking to Yahweh and the law, they would seek after mediums and the occult.

To the nations of Judah and Israel who were not seeking Yahweh, their future was distress, darkness, gloom, and anguish.

Segment 6 – Isaiah 9:1ff

A Great Light; A Child Will Be Born – The Second Fulfillment of Immanuel

Isaiah 9:1-2

At this time, the northern region of Israel was being taken into captivity by the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser. They were going to be driven away into darkness, gloom, anguish, and distress. However, a light would shine on them through a child that would be born. Matthew 4:12-16

Isaiah 9:3-5

Their oppressors will be defeated one day, as at the battle of Midian (Gideon – Judges chapter 6 and 7).

Isaiah 9:6

A child will be born.

The government will rest on his shoulder.

Titles or duties of the governmental leader that will rule

- Mighty Counselor (Extraordinary Strategist)
- Mighty God (A Mighty El)
According to Brown, Driver, and Briggs, the Hebrew word *El* can also be understood as “god-like one, mighty one, mighty men, men of rank, mighty heroes, angels.”
See Ezekiel 17:12-14 (NASB – “the mighty of the land are the kings and princes that rule the kingdom)
See Ezekiel 31:3-11 (NASB – “despot,” KJV – “mighty one”)
- Eternal Father
This is a figurative idiomatic use of the title “father.” It means father of the eternal age to come. Other biblical examples of this use of “father” can be seen in Job 29:16 and Isaiah 22:21-22 – “I will entrust him with your authority” (KJV - thy government into his hands), and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem....” The use of “father” can also be understood as the first, beginning, or founder. Biblical examples are Genesis 4:20-21, 17:4; John 8:44; Romans 4:11.
- Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:7

No end to the increase of his government

He will sit on the throne of David (II Samuel 7:12-13; Luke 1:31-32)

Uphold it with justice and righteousness (Isaiah 16:5)

Isaiah 9:8-21

This is a message against Jacob which falls on Israel – Ephraim – Samaria. The rod of God’s anger, the nation of Assyria, has begun to inflict the people of God.