

Isaiah 7

February 15, 2023

Isaiah 7:1-2 NKJV

Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it. [2] And it was told to the house of David, saying, "Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim." So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind.

- ◆ Time Period: Reign of Ahaz king of Judah (around 734 BC)
- ◆ Pekah (king of Israel) and Resin (king of Syria made a military alliance)
- ◆ (2 Chronicles 28:1-4, 22-27; 2 Kings 16)

- ◆ After Jereboam II died, Israel became a very weak nation (hence the alliance with Syria)
- ◆ Their plan was to invade Judah and set up a puppet regime with the (son of Tabel)
- ◆ This show of force caused Judah (and particularly Ahaz) to fear
- ◆ The tribe of Ephraim had come to dominate Israel and was calling the shots

Isaiah 7:3 NKJV

Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field,

- ◆ God sends Isaiah to speak with King Ahaz
- ◆ Take your son, Shear-Jashub, which means a remnant will return (illustrates the prophet's message)
- ◆ Specifies the meeting place
 - ◆ End of the aqueduct from the upper pool
 - ◆ On the highway to the Fuller's Field (Fullers did laundry)

Isaiah 7:4-6 NKJV

and say to him: 'Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah.

[5] Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, [6] "Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabel"-

- ◆ (V 4) Say to Ahaz (King of Judah/Southern Kingdom): be careful and be calm (keep your head and don't panic)
- ◆ These two hot heads won't last
 - ◆ (their lives would soon end)
 - ◆ Like burnt firewood they would be gone
 - ◆ Both men would die two years later

Isaiah 7:7-9 NKJV

thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand, Nor shall it come to pass. [8] For the head of Syria is Damascus, And the head of Damascus is Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, So that it will not be a people. [9]

The head of Ephraim is Samaria, And the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If you will not believe, Surely you shall not be established."'''

- ◆ Thus says the Lord GOD:
- ◆ These are mere men, and can't thwart God's plan for the remnant
- ◆ Syria would fall all on its own
- ◆ Ephraim (Israel) would be shattered
- ◆ Conquered
- ◆ Intermingled with foreigners

- ◆ Faith was required of Ahaz
- ◆ Yet he chose alliances instead of faith
- ◆ (2 Kings 16:6-9)

Isaiah 7:10-12 NKJV

Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, [11] "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." [12] But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!"

- ◆ God offers to give Ahaz a sign to strengthen his faith
- ◆ Anything he wanted
- ◆ Ahaz refused: "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord"
- ◆ This response was pious on its face, but the actions of Ahaz show the opposite

Isaiah 7:13-17 NKJV

Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. [15] Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. [16] For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.

◆ By rejecting the directive, Ahaz was in effect rejecting the one who sent the prophet. (Testing the Lord's patience)

◆ God would give him a sign anyway!

The Sign

- ◆ Son born of a virgin (Immanuel)
- ◆ He would be raised in a time of national calamity (curds and honey), until He is old enough to know good and evil
- ◆ This child will choose good and not evil!

- ◆ The Hebrew word for virgin is used only once in Isaiah (translated virgin)
- ◆ It is used only 7 times in all of the OT
- ◆ Here, in the Hebrew, it has a definite article—> “the virgin” not “a virgin”

- ◆ The significance of God sending Isaiah's son with them is amazing
- ◆ His son's name meant a remnant will return
- ◆ Judah would be preserved through a remnant
- ◆ The remnant would ensure this Son to be born of a virgin, Immanuel
- ◆ And the two kings you feared more than me will be gone

Isaiah 7:17-19 NKJV

The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house-days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah." [18] And it shall come to pass in that day That the LORD will whistle for the fly That is in the farthest part of the rivers of Egypt, And for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. [19] They will come, and all of them will rest In the desolate valleys and in the clefts of the rocks, And on all thorns and in all pastures.

- ◆ The ones with whom you sought help from, instead of Me, they are going to devastate you.
- ◆ The Lord will bring armies against you
 - ◆ Flies= Egyptian army (swift and numerous)
 - ◆ Bees= Assyrian Army (swift and vicious)
- ◆ They will be invaders and squat on the land

Isaiah 7:20 NKJV

In the same day the Lord will shave with a hired razor, With those from beyond the River, with the king of Assyria, The head and the hair of the legs, And will also remove the beard.

- ◆ “Shave with a hired razor”
- ◆ God will use foreign armies to humiliate them and strip the land bare
- ◆ It was a great shame for Jewish men to be shaven (2 Samuel 10:1-5)

Isaiah 7:21-22 NKJV

It shall be in that day That a man will keep
alive a young cow and two sheep; [22] So it
shall be, from the abundance of milk they
give, That he will eat curds; For curds and
honey everyone will eat who is left in the land.

- ◆ There will be severe economic conditions
- ◆ Livestock will be so scarce, it will be used for survival not for meat

Isaiah 7:23-24 NKJV

It shall happen in that day, That wherever there could be a thousand vines Worth a thousand shekels of silver, It will be for briers and thorns.

[24] With arrows and bows men will come there, Because all the land will become briers and thorns.

- ◆ Good real estate that was expensive will become wasteland and undesirable
- ◆ Filled with dangerous animals (need for a bow and arrow)

Isaiah 7:25 NKJV

And to any hill which could be dug with the
hoe, You will not go there for fear of briars
and thorns; But it will become a range for
oxen And a place for sheep to roam.

- ◆ The land will become overgrown with thorns
- ◆ Nobody will be able to plant or cultivate the soil
- ◆ They will send animals there to try and trample the growth down

Take Away?

- ◆ God is able.
- ◆ He can do it all on his own.
- ◆ Where is my trust?