

ISAIAH – Chapter 7

Verses 1-2 – The historical situation.

Vs. 1 Rezin, king of Aram; and Pekah, king of Israel (10 tribes) {752-732 B.C.} had made an alliance.

After Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.) of Israel died, the Northern Kingdom became increasingly weak. Rezin ended up being Aram's last king and Pekah was Israel's next-to-last king. 2 Kings 15:27-16:20 Rezin convinced Pekah to join with him against Judah. They planned to replace Judah's King Ahaz with a puppet king. Isa. 7:6

Vs. 2 House of David – Ahaz

Ephraim, the largest tribe in the Northern Kingdom, became another name for the entire kingdom.

Ahaz thought he could look to Assyria for deliverance.

Verses 3-9 – God tells Isaiah to tell Ahaz that Judah would not be destroyed.

Vs. 3 Shear-jashub – “a remnant will return”

Upper pool – a reservoir that held water for Jerusalem.

Ahaz would have been inspecting the city's water supply in anticipation of an attack – Isaiah intercepted him there.

Vs. 4-9 Ahaz is not to be afraid for both king's lives will be ended shortly. Both men died 2 years later in 732 B.C.

Vs. 8 Ephraim (10 tribes) will be carried off by the Assyrians leaving a remnant. That remnant will intermarry with foreign colonists moved in by the Assyrians creating a people called the Samaritans. The exiles of Israel have not been heard from since, even to this day! 2 Kings 17:1-18; Ezra 4:10

Vs. 9 “If you will not believe, you surely shall not last.” Literally – if you will not be sure, you cannot be secure.

Note: 33 years later King Hezekiah is challenged at the same place by Assyria. Isa. 36:2-37:7

Verses 10-12 – Ahaz's rejection of a sign.

Though Ahaz's response sounds pious, God's response indicates that Ahaz's motivations behind the response were not right.

Verses 13-25 – God’s response to Ahaz.

Vs. 13 Isaiah responds to Ahaz’s refusal to respond to God’s offer – you are testing both man’s and God’s patience.

Vs. 14-16 God will give Ahaz a sign anyway. The sign will be a child born named Immanuel – “God with us.”

- 1) The boy will be born of a virgin.
- 2) He will be raised in a time of national calamity (vs.21-22 – the abundance of... milk is a distressful factor. With many animals dying, a farmer’s “cow and two goats” would have no young to nurse, and so the plentiful milk for the people.)
- 3) While the child is still young, the two-king alliance will be broken.

Fulfillment --

- 1) The prophecy was directed primarily to Ahaz regarding the breakup of the alliance between Rezin and Pekah.
- 2) The woman spoken of is a virgin who would be married and have a child.
- 3) Before the child born was able to grow, the alliance would be broken.
- 4) Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, centuries later, Matthew quotes Isaiah 7:14 as a statement that was also true of Christ’s birth. We have the immediate or short- term fulfillment for the time given and then the long-term fulfillment which is always revealed by God.

Verses 17-19

God will bring upon Jerusalem and Judah bad times. The king of Assyria will be the primary opponent extracting heavy tribute from Judah.

God will call the “flies” from Egypt and the “bees” from the land of Assyria. They will come and settle on the people bringing them perpetual difficulty. (Flies irritate, bees sting)

Verses 20-25

In that day, Judah will experience deprivation and humiliation.

Assyria, like a razor, will shave Judah’s hair, a sign of humiliation. Job. 1:20; Jer. 48:37; Ezk. 7:18

Vs. 21-22 See notes on verse 15

Vs. 23-25 The land will be ruined to such an extent that no crops will be able to grow upon it.