

ISAIAH – Chapter 8

Isaiah 8:1-9:7 – The national will be delivered and this deliverance is a picture of another deliverer, who will transform the world!

Verses 1-4 (7:4-17) – The Aram – Israel alliance will end. Rom. 13:1-2
God has called to Assyria to remove them. Isa. 10:5-6

Vs. 1 Isaiah is told by God to use a “visual aid” in his prophetic ministry. His next child will be named “quick pickings, easy prey” (Maher-shalal-hash-baz – the longest personal name in the Bible).

Vs. 2 God calls in two witnesses who will confirm that His words are true.
Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15

1) Uriah, the priest, later falls from his present spiritual position.
2 Kings 16:10-16

2) Zechariah, the son of Jeberechiah, may have ministered during the reign of Uzziah (Amaziah) [2 Chron. 26:3-5] or was the priest mentioned in 2 Chron. 29:13-20 during Hezekiah’s reign.

Vs. 3-4 The birth of Isaiah’s second son.

Isaiah’s son was a sign of the destruction of the Aram-Israel alliance. A year following the birth which followed the 9 month’s pregnancy saw the Assyrians plunder both Damascus and Samaria. (It was at the time of the destruction of Damascus that Ahaz went to see the king of Assyria and sent for Uriah to duplicate the “alter of worship” in Damascus – see vs. 2)

Historical Note: Tiglath-Pileser III, king of Assyria, put Samaria under their control in 732 B.C. and collected tribute from her for 9 years. Hoshea rebelled causing the Assyrians, now under Shalmaneser, to remove Israel from her land. 722 B.C. saw the end of the 10 tribes, which state has continued through this day.
2 Kings 17:1-41

Vs. 5-6 Inasmuch (because) as the ten tribes joined with Aram instead of Judah...the gently flowing waters of Shiloah (also called Siloam) was a spring that fed a small reservoir within Jerusalem’s walls.

Vs. 7 Rather than the gently flowing waters, Israel has chosen the “flood waters” of Assyria.

OR

“these people” refers to the nation of Judah (led by Ahaz) and Assyria will later come down upon them (701 B.C.)

Vs. 8 The assault from Assyria upon Judah will be like flood waters which come up to the neck – almost kills you but then recedes.

The figure of speech – no changes – Assyria, a giant bird of prey whose wings will cover the entire land, ready to devour it.

O Immanuel. At this point in human history “God is with us” and therefore deliverance will be forthcoming.

Vs. 9-10 The nations will prepare for battle against Judah but they will not succeed. “For Immanuel” They will be “shattered” (3 times) God has had a plan for the “House of Israel” and the “House of Judah” which preceded their birth as a nation Heb. 8:6-13. Note: Ahaz might not last, but Judah will. Isa.7:9

Vs. 11 The Lord had promised to be with His people (vs. 10), but many in Israel and Judah refused to believe that He would keep that promise (why they looked elsewhere for security). The Lord warns Isaiah not to be like those people.

Vs. 12 The people are afraid of the alliance between Aram and Israel. Assyria is rising in power! The people of Judah are not to be afraid of either of these potential threats.

Vs. 13 It is the God of Israel that they should fear, nay, dread.

Vs. 14 The “Lord of Hosts” will become two things:

1) a sanctuary

2) a stone to strike
a rock to stumble over
a snare and a trap

for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Lk. 2:34; Rom. 9:30-10:4; 1 Pet. 2:4-10

Vs. 15 As for the inhabitants of Jerusalem

1) Many will stumble

2) Will fall and be broken

3) Be snared and caught

Vs. 16-18 After hearing what God has said, Isaiah reaffirms His trust and dependence on God.

By binding the testimony and sealing the law, Isaiah lays it to the account of God’s elect (disciples). Matt. 16:18-19

God has not rejected the people He foreknew!

At the same time that God is hiding His face from the House of Jacob, there are those who wait for and even eagerly look for Him. Verse 18 is quoted in the Book of Hebrews as a prophecy referring to Christ. Heb. 2:12-13

Isaiah “knew” that his children were signs from God who spoke to the nation – a message from the Lord of Hosts who dwells on Mount Zion.

Vs. 19 Those of Judah and Jerusalem were concerned for their future! Who did they consult? Should not a people...should they...? Deut. 18:9-14

Vs. 20 If a person is to consult their God, where would they go to accomplish their desire – to the Law and to the testimony. If their direction is not according to the Bible – they have no dawn! John 3:19-21

Vs. 21-22 In their distress they will look up to God and curse Him and look to the earth where they will face distress and end up in darkness.

Note: Those who consult the dead will end up with them.