



Prophecies, Promises, Warnings

Isaiah 8:1-22

Verse-by-verse

Verse 1 –

- Chapter 8 continues from the previous chapter, **Moreover**, literally “and then.”¹
- The LORD commands the prophet to get a large tablet (scroll) and literally, “Engraving tool of a man.”
- **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**, it denotes a sudden attack on Israel (Pekah) and Syria (Rezin).

Verse 2 –

- God calls on two faithful witnesses who could confirm that His words were true.
 - God uses witnesses throughout history: Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15.
 - In the last days (Tribulation), God will raise up Two Witnesses who will prophecy to unbelieving Israel. Revelation 11:1-11.

Verse 3, 4

- **Prophetess**, Isaiah’s wife. She is a prophetess either because she was married to Isaiah or because she had the God-given ability to prophesy.
- His son, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, would be a physical sign of the pending attack against Israel and Syria by Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria. This historical event took place in 732 B.C. which confirms a date of 734 B.C. for Isaiah’s prophecy.
- When Damascus (Syria) and Samaria fell, Judah (King Ahaz) should have turned to God as Isaiah had told them to.
 - Sadly, one of the witnesses, **Uriah** (or Urijah) the priest followed Ahaz’s orders after 732 B.C. and changed the temple worship in Jerusalem to the same pagan worship practices of Damascus (2 Kings 16:10-16).

¹To view last week’s outline go to <https://fullygraceministries.sermon.net/main/sermons/21359339>

Verses 5 - 8 –

- **These people.** Two ways to interpret. It either refers to the northern kingdom of Israel, or the southern kingdom of Judah. I tend to lean toward the latter.
 - Judah, under King Ahaz, aligned themselves with Tiglath-pileser III rather than the **gentle waters of Shiloah**, also called Siloam which is a pool in the city of Jerusalem.
 - **These people** instead embraced a foreign ruler and rejoiced, perhaps, at the death of **Rezin** (king of Syria), and **Remaliah's** son (Pekah, king of Israel).
- **Waters of the River**—a figure of speech regarding the Euphrates River located in Assyria. This happened to Judah in 701 B.C. when they were invaded by the Assyrians.
- Notice the figurative waters would only reach up to Judah's neck. Judah would be covered but not completely drowned. The southern kingdom of Judah would never be powerful again, but they would not be conquered until the Babylonians come to power and destroy the city in 586 B.C.
- **O Immanuel.** Meaning "God with us, or God is with us". Same name used in 7:14 when Ahaz was told that a boy would be born as a sign to that nation that it would not perish at the hands of Syria and Israel.
 - Now the Assyrians would try to "drown" the land of Judah. But the word Immanuel assured the hearers that God had not forgotten His covenant people and would be with them.

Verses 9 - 10 –

- **For God is with us.** This is the great truth of all Scripture regarding God and His People, Israel. He is with them. It is a truth that separated Judah from all other nations of the world. This is a promise for Israel.
- All Christians have a promise too, Romans 8:31-39.
- Because God promised to be with His people they were to have faith in Him no matter how bad the circumstances.
- Ahaz was rebuked for his lack of faith, Isaiah 7:9

Verse 11 – 15

- **Not walk in the way of this people.**
 - Fear, stubbornness, compromise
- **Let Him be your fear.** Fearing God also means responding to Him in worship, service, trust, obedience and commitment. Deuteronomy 4:10...teach your children to fear the LORD.
- **Sanctuary.** A place of safety for those who believe in Him.
- **Stone of Stumbling.** A means of destruction for those who do not believe. 1 Peter 2:8.

Verse 16 – 18 –

- **Bind up...Seal...disciples.** It is difficult to know what is happening here. It appears Isaiah is asking the LORD to take and preserve the written word for (Isaiah's) disciples so if he is no longer able to communicate by word of mouth, they would still have the testimony and the Law?
- In so doing Isaiah claims, no matter what happens with Judah, he will wait on the LORD, he will hope in **Him**, the coming Messiah (God with us), who will rule from Mount Zion (Isaiah 2:3)

Verses 19 - 22 –

- **Seek those who are mediums and wizards...** Most people want to know the future.
- The people of Judah were pulled into the pagan practice of consulting mediums and spiritist.
- We are never to contact the dead, Deuteronomy 18:10-12.
- **There is no light in them...** Those who fail to heed God's Word have no spiritual light, John 3:19-20.
- Those who consult pagan deities will eventually be judged by god.
 - In their distress they will look up to God and curse Him, Revelation 16:11.
 - Those who refuse to look to God (believe on Him) for their salvation will be thrust into darkness forever, 2 Peter 2:12-17.

Signs of the Times

Before every great crisis in human affairs there has been an outburst of spiritism (and demon activity). So it was with Judah, just before the captivity. So it was in the time of Jesus Christ's first coming and atoning death. So it is today as we near the Rapture of the Church.

How will we endure the onslaught of apostasy in the last days? 2 Timothy 3:16-17.