

In the previous section (chapters 1-5), we saw that the prophet Isaiah's primary message was to the people. They had disobeyed God and sought to worship the gods of other nations. Their punishment for disobedience would come in the form of a distant conqueror; he would slaughter some of them and take others captive out of their own land. Because of the horrible, adverse conditions of war, many sons and daughters of Israel would die from starvation or pestilence.

I cannot help but think that if the people had had good leaders, then they would not have been so easily led astray. If the Levitical priesthood had done their part to teach the people the Word of God, then the people would have arisen to obedience. The Levitical priesthood more than likely did not even consult the Word of God thus they thrust an entire nation into the consequences of disobedience.

The kings played a part in the downfall of this nation as well. In the Northern Kingdom, the people had no good kings. In the Southern kingdom, they had both kings who were considered good according to the Scripture and those who were considered bad. Although the good kings tried to make strides in getting the people out of the worship of idols and back to the worship of Jehovah, they could only do so much. As soon as they were dead, another king took over and would likely plunge the people back into idolatry.

I'm writing down these next few paragraphs as a kind of clarification of terms, nations, conquering nations, etc. I don't want you to get lost in all the words and all the players and miss the messages of chapters 7 and 8.

The nation of Israel (the entire 12 tribes together) was split during the reign of King Solomon's son, Rehoboam. Prior to this time, the 12 tribes were under one king's rule. The kingship over the nation of Israel was to come from the tribe of Judah. The three kings prior to the split of the nation were David, Solomon, and Rehoboam, all from the tribe of Judah.

The ten tribes to the north became known as the house of Israel under the leadership of Jeroboam of Nebat. Jeroboam was not of the kingly tribe of Judah. Another name for the northern kingdom is Ephraim (it was kind of a pet name God had for them). The capital was at Samaria and it was also one of two sites the people used to worship their idols. The northern kingdom became completely idolatrous and did not worship the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Some of the people of the different tribes to the north moved southward into the southern kingdom because they wanted to worship Jehovah. This included many of the priests who were dispersed throughout all of the tribes of Israel. The northern kingdom never had any good kings; they all were idol worshipers and did not worship or obey Jehovah GOD. Assyria came into the land, captured the people of this northern kingdom, and carried them into captivity into all parts of the world where Assyria had previously conquered other peoples.

The two tribes to the south (Judah and Benjamin) became known as the house of David. Their worship center remained at Jerusalem and they worshiped Jehovah GOD some of

the time when they had good kings ruling over them and they fell into idolatry from time-to-time when they had bad kings ruling over them. Assyria ravaged the cities of the southern kingdom, but God did not allow Assyria to take the southern city of Jerusalem. Finally, (approximately) 100 years after the northern kingdom was taken into captivity by the Assyrians, the judgment of God came down on the southern kingdom. By this time, the leadership of the southern kingdom had left the worship of Jehovah completely, and Babylon was allowed to come in and carry the inhabitants of Jerusalem captive to Babylon.

In this section, we will take a look at the political climate and the failure of the kings/priests of the Southern Kingdom to trust Jehovah GOD. In order to understand this section of Scripture more fully, we will look at the three individual names used as signs to Israel, “Shear-Jashub,” “Immanuel,” and “Maher-shalal-hash-baz.” Finally, in this week’s lesson, we will look at three choices that leadership was given and the consequences those choices ensued.

Days 1-2-Shear-Jashub: a Remnant shall return/Immanuel: God is with us –Isaiah 7

Shear-Jashub: a Remnant shall return

Please read and work on your double-spaced worksheet for Isaiah 7:1-9. Ask the “5 W’s and an H questions” of the text. Please mark in the margin where you first encounter Shear-Jashub’s name.¹

What does Shear-Jashub’s name mean?

What does Shear-Jashub’s name imply will eventually happen to the Southern Kingdom?

What were the requirements for being in this group called the Remnant?

Why would God want to preserve a Remnant of His people?

Someone once told me if one knows what is happening to him is of the LORD, then, he can hang on and endure all that comes his way. God will eventually make all things right and all things will work together for the good of that person and for the glory of God. The people called the Remnant were the true and faithful Believers in God. And God wanted the Remnant to have that hope and that peace that He would accomplish all that He said He would do.

What did God ask Isaiah and his son, Shear-jashub, to do according to Isaiah 7:3?

¹ Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Shear-Jashub: Isaiah said in chapter 8:18: “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of Hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.” Shear Jashub is first mentioned in Isaiah chapter 7:3 when the LORD says to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub...” Shear-jashub’s name means “a remnant shall return” and implies indirectly that the house of David is going to be carried off into captivity by a conquering army. In the near future, the kings and priests (the leadership) of the southern nation will not serve the people well in their positions. There will come a time when there will be absolutely no good kings left in the Southern Kingdom and the priests will be won over completely into idolatry. At this time God will judge the Southern Kingdom as a nation and will give Babylon the authority to take this nation into captivity. However, God, in His mercy, will allow a Remnant to survive and return to the land. This is both hopeful and woeful for the Jews. Chapters 9 through 11 speak of the captivity, but also tell of the faithful Remnant who will return to the land, and the Messiah who will come from this Remnant.

Immanuel: God is with us

Please mark the following in a distinctive way so you can better understand what is going on in this situation. Yes, we looked at this in lesson 1 also, in a little different manor.

Conspirator 1 – 1 distinct marking	Conspirator 2- 1 distinct marking
Rezin the king of Aram	Pekah, the son of Remaliah
The Arameans	King of Israel
Rezin and Aram	Ephraim
Aram	Son of Remaliah
Head of Aram is Damascus	Head of Ephraim is Samaria
Head of Damascus is Rezin	Head of Samaria is son of Remaliah

Who are the two conspirators? And whom are they plotting against?

Who is the ruler of the Southern kingdom at this time?

Why are Aram and the Northern kingdom of Israel conspiring against the Southern kingdom of Judah (7:6)?

What is another name that God, through Isaiah, calls these two kingdoms coming against Judah (7:4)?

Is King Ahaz afraid? Are his people afraid (7:2)?

What will happen to the Northern Kingdom (7:8)?

What will happen to King Ahaz and his people (the Southern Kingdom) if they do not believe what Isaiah has told them (7:9)?

Please read and work on your double-spaced worksheet for Isaiah 7:10-17. “Then” denotes time or sequencing of events. Please mark these in the same way as you marked time previously. Note in the margin where this Immanuel prophecy is found in the New Testament. Look in the cross-references for help. Mark in the margin where you first encounter the name “Immanuel.”

What does the name “Immanuel” mean?

Would this prophecy of Immanuel have been tremendous hope to a frightened nation? If yes, how so?

If Ahaz had believed God, what would he have done?

How could King Ahaz find inner peace if he wanted it in this time of turmoil?

How could the people find inner peace if they wanted it during this time of turmoil?

How could you find inner peace if you want it during times of inner or outer conflict?

Isaiah 26:3-4 says this: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD Jehovah is everlasting strength.” KJV

What will you think about this prophecy (7:14) and its context when you hear it used next Christmas to refer to the Son of God being born of a virgin?

This particular prophecy has immediate and future fulfillments. What is the future fulfillment referring to? Please cross-reference to Genesis 3:15, Matthew 1:18-25. It is amazing there is so much continuity for God’s plan of redemption for Mankind throughout the entire Scripture.

What will happen to Ephraim (Northern Kingdom) and to Aram (present day Syria) before Immanuel knows enough to refuse evil and choose good (7:15-16)?

Now, finish out the double-spaced worksheet for chapter 7:18-25. Please mark “in that day” as before.

What will happen to the S. Kingdom “in that day” according to verse 7:17-25?

When will these things happen?

In week 3, the “last days” or in “that day” could include all the times from before the beginning of the Tribulation period to a new heaven and earth at the end of time as we know it. So, what time reference is “in that day” referring to in 7:17-25? Please consider the context here.

Please write the theme of Isaiah 7 on the Isaiah-theme-summary chart in the Appendix.

Immanuel: In Isaiah 7:14, God, through the mouth of Isaiah, tells King Ahaz to ask for a sign to prove that which God has just promised him and the people of Judah concerning their enemies to the north. Because Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign, God turns to the people and gives them a sign instead providing them the opportunity to trust Him even though their king did not. The sign is that a virgin will bear a son and His name will be called Immanuel. The announcement of the sign gives hope to the house of David that their enemies to the north will not conquer them. King Ahaz prefers to trust in the unholy and unlawful secret alliance he has just made with the king of Assyria for protection against Aram and Israel. Ahaz’s disobedience shows his lack of faith and skills in leading the people according to God’s way. Unfortunately, the people will pay for the king’s sins on a national level.²ⁱ

Days 3 - Maher-shalal-hash-baz: Swift is the booty, Speedy is the prey -Isaiah 8

Please read and work on Isaiah 8 at this time. Mark key-repeated words again. I marked “Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey” and “Mahershalal-hash-baz” with the same marking. I marked “Rezin” and the “son of Remaliah” in the same distinct way as I marked them in Isaiah 7. Also, I marked “Immanuel” and “God is with us” with the same distinct marking as before. Mark out into the margin the first time you encounter the name Mahershalal-hash-baz. Ask questions of the text as you move through it. Mark the “law” and the “testimony” in your own distinct ways.

What did the name Mahershalal-hash-baz mean?

For your own understanding of the awe and power of God, know that within two years of the prophecy of hope given to the people under Ahaz, the two kings in cahoots with one another (Syria and the House of Israel) were both dead, and the Arameans (present day Syrians) had been conquered by the Assyrians. Within 65 years, the Assyrians also took the Northern Kingdom captive. The Assyrians besieged the cities of Judah (after breaking their alliance with King Ahaz), but were not successful in conquering Jerusalem.

Was this warning, revealed in the name of Mahershalal-hash-baz, for the southern kingdom as well as the northern kingdom?

Maher-shalal-has-baz : This is Isaiah’s second son and is mentioned first in Isaiah 8:1-3. His name is a sign and a message of judgment to the house of Israel to the north and

² As an additional note, some commentators say that Maher-shalal-hash-baz’s name is also Immanuel.

possibly to the house of Judah to the south as well. The house of Israel is one of the two enemies of Judah, in cahoots with each other, scheming together to conquer the people of Judah in Isaiah 7. Maher-shalal-has-baz's name means "swift is the booty, speedy is the prey" and it is a warning to the Northern kingdom that they will soon be taken into captivity by the king of Assyria.

Days 4 – 5 - Three contrasts –Isaiah 8

There are three contrasts in this chapter that should have spoken to the leadership of Judah during that day, yet they rejected the LORD their God. Please try to locate each of these contrasts in the following segments. Remember, Ahaz, as well as the rest of the leadership of Judah, trusted in the Assyrians and in their unholy alliance with them; they did not trust in the LORD their God.ⁱⁱ

Isaiah 8:5-10ⁱⁱⁱ

Which did the leadership of Judah choose: the gentle flowing waters of Shiloh or the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates? In other words, did they choose God or did they choose their alliance partner, Assyria, who would soon turn on them?

Once again, who are the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates?

What will happen to the leadership of Judah because of their choice?

How did they acknowledge their choice? See 8:6.

What does it mean that the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates will sweep on into Judah, overflow and pass through it, even reaching to the neck?

Who is God speaking about in 8:9-10?

Isaiah 8:11-15^{iv}

Which did the leadership of Judah choose: their God, a sanctuary, or their God, a stone to strike, a rock to stumble over, a snare and a trap?

Was this really a choice for Judah or was it a conspiracy?

What did God instruct Isaiah to do?

What will Isaiah do with God as his sanctuary, he and his children whom the LORD has given to him for signs and wonders in Israel (8:14,17)?

Read I Peter 3:12-15 and Isaiah 4:6. If God is your sanctuary, what do you have to fear?

Isaiah 8:16-22^v

Who did the leadership of Judah choose to consult: the mediums and the spiritists who will cause them to end up in darkness, gloom of anguish & distress, or God who has the Truth and gives light?

What is God doing at this time to Jacob (8:17)?

Who is “Jacob” referring to?

What will happen to those who have chosen to consult the mediums and the spiritists instead of being obedient to God’s laws and testimonies?

What is the darkness spoken about in this section? What is the light spoken about here?

What does the name “Isaiah” mean? If you don’t remember, go back and do the first lesson.

What choices have you made that have purposely left God out of the equation?

Are you ever tempted to trust in the wisdom of Man over the foolishness of God?

Are some right choices less clear to you when you are in the midst of the world, and yet are they more clearly defined for you when you are in the fellowship of Believers?

What about our country? What choices has this country made in which they have purposefully, forcefully, left God out of the picture?

What can we do to turn the tide of unbelief and disobedience that is so evident within our own government?

Please, write the theme of Isaiah 8 on the double-spaced worksheet and on the Isaiah-theme-summary chart in the Appendix.

ⁱ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted*, USA, SP Publications, Inc., 1992, pp. 32-33.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*, pp. 34-36.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid*.

^{iv} *Ibid*.

^v *Ibid*.

ISAIAH & HIS CHILDREN FOR SIGNS & WONDERS IN ISRAEL

IMMANUEL* God is with Us	MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-BAZ-2nd SON Quick to the Plunder/Swift to the Spoil	SHEAR-JASHUB-1st SON A Remnant Shal Return
<p><u>Situation:</u> chapter 7 Ahaz, evil king of Judah makes alliance w/ King of Assyria to ally Judah w/ Assyria against Aram/Ephraim alliance to put N. K. king on S.K. throne Aram camped in Judah's backyard Ahaz & people very frightened Isaiah & son meet Ahaz & people to tell them that Aram/Ephraim will not succede & Assyria will come for Judah as well</p> <p>God gives Ahaz a <u>sign of hope</u>. Immanuel - a virgin will bear a son and His name will be God is with us. Immanuel will be a reminder to the people that God is with them and He would care for them.</p> <p>“alma” means virgin here not a young woman besides, what kind of sign would it be for a young woman to bear a son???</p> <p>Did this happen? Aram & Ephraim both will be a dead by the time that Isaiah's son is two years old</p> <p>Did these events that Isaiah prophesied come about? yes</p> <p>Application for us? Ahaz & people would have had inner peace if they had believed God's message through the prophet Isaiah</p> <p>We can have tremendous peace; we can last if we believe God's promises to us/ His word</p>	<p><u>Situation:</u> chapter 8 (See 10:5-6) the impending judgment in the very near future where Assyria would invade both Israel & Judah and also to the not-so-distant future concerning Babylons invasion of Jerusalem about 100 years into the future.</p> <p><u>Three choices</u> given to the leadership to avoid all of this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. choice of the strong & abundant waters of the Euphrates or the gentle flowing waters of Shiloh - choice of a flood of invading armies of Assyria or the peaceful river God intended for them - they chose the former. Those in Judah's leadership saw that both Syria & Ephraim were defeated by Assyria so they thought the 'safest' route was to side w/ Assyria. B/c of their choice, Assyria will besige them. 2. choice of the sanctuary of God Himself or a snare & a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Isaiah & his family were to simply wait on the Lord and not follow the nation's ways. The nation will stumble over the rock and the stone, they will be snare & caught 3. choice of the darkness over the light or consulting the mediums & spiritualists, the dead over the living, they will be driven into darkness. The light is the law & the testimony - His word <p>*God has commissioned Assyria to discipline His people by capturing booty & seizing plunder (10:5-6)</p>	<p><u>Situation:</u>chapter 7 for next week God has promised this Remnant</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a Redeemer (9:1-7) 2. Judgment on her sister to the North, Israel 3. Judgment of the enemy, Assyria 4. After the above 2 have happened, God will restore the Remnant to Himself

*some commentators believe Isaiah's second son was also called Immanuel

POLITICAL & SPIRITUAL FAILURE OF THE LEADERSHIP
The Sins of the Nation

Isaiah 7-12
 Part 1
 Lesson 4-2

Purpose: cover the DSWS on Isaiah chapters 7-12 **Understand:** the Political and Spiritual Sins of the Nation resulted in God's judgment of them, sending them into captivity **Application:** By seeing their failure both politically and spiritual ly, perhaps we can avoid similar consequences

POLITICAL FAILURE (SINS) OF THE NATION Kings/ Unholy Alliances/Dependence on Man - not God	SPIRITUAL FAILURE (SINS) OF THE NATION The Priesthood/ Unbelief/ Lack of Knowledge
<p>King Ahaz -(II Kings 15:32-38, p. 5 of notes) 16 years <u>did not do right</u> in the sight of the LORD <u>walked in the ways of the hs of Israel</u>, made son pass thru fire; <u>sacrificed and burned incense on high places</u> <i>people sacrificed & burned incense on high places b/c Ahaz did</i> <u>did not trust in the LORD</u> - when Aram camped in Ephraim, Ahaz & people shaken greatly, but Ahaz still will not accept comfort of the LORD that Aram/Ephraim would not be able to conquer them made an <u>unholy alliance</u> w/ Assyria b/c of Aram/Ephraim alliance instead of <u>trusting in God's word thru Isaiah</u> of God's tender mercy in giving him a sign</p> <p>King Jotham & King Uzziah (Ahaz's father & grandfather) did right in the sight of the LORD for the most part did not removethe high places <i>people sacrificed & burned incense on high places b/c not taken away during Jotham & Uzziah's reign</i></p> <p>King Hezekiah (II Kings 18:1-8) 29 years <u>did right in the sight of the LORD</u> for the most part he removed the high places and cut down the Asherah, etc <i>people followed suit</i> he, too, relied on <u>Egypt & Cush as allies</u> instead of <u>God's word through Isaiah</u> re: the Assyrians</p> <p>King Mannaseh</p>	<p>The Priesthood they were suppose to teach the people God's word; did not were scattered throughout all of Israel so that they could live among the people and teach them God's word God's word was lost in the house of God at this time and lay dormant The people would perish b/c of lack of knowledge of God's word</p> <p>The Prophets true prophets - were sent at this time to warn the kings & the people of the coming judgment, urge them to repent, and encourage them to believe God at His word</p> <p>The People did not believe God's word through Isaiah, b/c their kings did not and their priesthood failed to teach them</p>