

## A Trek Through Isaiah 08 - 7:18 - 9:7

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September 17, 2023

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### Context

- In the first section about the King
- Finishing Darkness and Light in Judah 7:1 – 9:7

### Divine Judgment 7:13 – 8:8

#### Judah devastated 7:18-25

- Describing the coming devastation of Judah. Four pictures each starting with “in that day”.

#### Judah will be overrun

7:18-19 And it will be in that day, that Yahweh will whistle for the fly that is in the remotest part of the rivers of Egypt and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. And they will all come and rest upon the steep ravines, on the crevices of the cliffs, on all the thorn bushes, and on all the watering places.

- Come and rest upon. Enemy soldiers will cover the land.

#### Judah will be humiliated

7:20 In that day, the Lord will shave with a razor—one hired from regions beyond the River (that is, the king of Assyria)—the head and the hair of the legs; and it will also remove the beard.

- Will shave...the head...the hair of the legs(pubic hair)... the beard. Clean shaving = complete humiliation but not complete destruction.

#### Judah will be reduced from riches to poverty

7:21-22 And it will be in that day, that a man may keep alive a heifer and a pair of sheep; and because of the abundance of the milk produced, he will eat curds, for everyone that is left within the land will eat curds and honey.

- will eat curds and honey. A picture of poverty. But Yahweh is still providing for His people.

#### Judah will be desolate

Isa 7:23-25 And it will be in that day, that every place where there used to be one thousand vines, valued at one thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns. People will come there with bows and arrows because all the land will be briars and thorns. As for all the hills which used to be cultivated with the hoe, you will not go there for fear of briars and thorns; but they will become a place for pasturing oxen and for sheep to trample.

- Briars and thorns: A wasteland.

Interim fulfillment: Isaiah's son

8:1-4 Then Yahweh said to me, "Take for yourself a large tablet and write on it in ordinary letters: Concerning Maher-shalal-hash-baz. "And I will take to Myself faithful witnesses for testimony, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah." Then I drew near to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then Yahweh said to me, "Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz, for before the boy knows how to cry out 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

- Announcement
  - large tablet. Like a billboard.
  - Maher-shalal-hash-baz. Like a slogan: Speed Spoil Haste Booty
  - Faithful witnesses. To attest to the posting of the message.
- Conception
  - At least nine months after the sign was posted.
- Explanation
  - Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz..." The sign was a prophecy about the boy and about the coming invasion.
  - For before... concerning immediate events
- Note the similarity with 7:16-17.
  - Both are about a son.
  - Both speak of a time period in the son's life as a measure of the time until fulfillment of a prophecy.
  - Both are about the fall of Aram and Israel
  - The fulfillment of this prophecy will confirm the prophecy in 7:14-17.

### Coming judgment on Judah

Isa 8:5-8 Again Yahweh spoke to me further, saying, "Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah And rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah; Now therefore, behold, the Lord is about to bring on them the mighty and abundant waters of the River— The king of Assyria and all his glory; And it will rise up over all its channels and go over all its banks. "Then it will sweep on into Judah; it will overflow and pass through; It will reach even to the neck; And the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.

- These people...rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah.
  - Verb present tense indicates that this oracle likely spoken after Aram and Israel fell to Assyria.
  - Judah is celebrating the apparent political success of their king in bringing about the defeat of their enemies.
- Therefore, behold. Announcing the judgment.
- Illustration of two waters (v6-8a)
  - waters of Shiloh. Pool near Jerusalem; gentle and refreshing = Davidic leadership.
  - Waters of the river. Euphrates; mighty and abundant, an overwhelming flood = Assyria.
  - Gentle waters refused, so there will be a flood. MOTYER points out that if you choose the world, you get the world in full measure.
  - Even to the neck. Not covering the head (Jerusalem)
- Illustration of bird of prey (v8b)
  - The spread of its wings. The Assyrian deity Nimroch was depicted as a man with an eagle's head and wings.
  - Will fill the breadth of Your land O Immanuel. Assyria may occupy the land for a time, but it belongs to sovereign King Immanuel. They can only come as far as He allows.

### A Believing Remnant Amid An Unbelieving People 8:9-22

- Isaiah turns from declaring judgment to giving encouragement to the believing remnant.

### A message is given to the nations

8:9-10 "Be broken, O peoples, and be shattered; And give ear, all remote places of the earth. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered; Gird yourselves, yet be shattered. "Devise counsel, but it will be thwarted; Speak a word, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

- Encouraged by the name Immanuel in v8, Isaiah breaks out in a challenge to Judah's foes: Do your worst. Come together and prepare for war. You will be broken.
- Peoples...remote places. Includes Israel & Syria, Assyria, Babylon.
- Gird yourselves...devise counsel. Prepare for attack, make alliances.
- It will be thwarted...it will not stand
  - Re Is 7:7-9 thus says the Lord God: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.
  - Their word cannot stand against the word of God.
- God is with us. The only real security for God's people. Isaiah is demonstrating the faith that Ahaz should have had.

A message is given to the remnant 8:11-22

Do not walk in the way of the unbelieving nation

8:11-15 For thus Yahweh spoke to me with a strong hand and disciplined me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, "You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy; And you are not to fear what they fear, and you shall not tremble. "It is Yahweh of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your cause of trembling. "Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. "And many will stumble over them; Then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught."

- Strong hand...disciplined Strengthening the prophet to oppose the culture.
- Not to walk in the way of this people. As they denied their God.
- You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!'.
  - Tending to blame their troubles on conspiring evil forces.
- Not to fear what they fear.
  - Fearing the nations around them
- It is Yahweh of hosts whom you should regard as holy.
  - Is 6:1-4 what Isaiah saw: sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, the train of His robe filling the temple, Holy, holy, holy, the whole earth filled with His glory  
How can they fear man when they have such a God?
- He shall be your fear. As Pr 1:7 the beginning of wisdom.
- He shall be your cause of trembling
  - Not of destruction as Ahaz dreaded.
  - Of being disqualified for service. As 1 Cor 9:27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
  - Of works being burned up. As 1 Cor 3:15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss
- Outcome for the remnant: He shall become a sanctuary.
  - Two meanings
    - A place of holiness where they would see God and worship Him, and where their sins would be forgiven.
    - A place of refuge
  - As Psa 27:4-5 One thing I have asked from Yahweh, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of Yahweh And to inquire in His temple. For in the day of calamity He will conceal me in His shelter; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock.
    - Behold the beauty of Yahweh
    - Learn His ways
    - Be safe from calamity
    - Be lifted up and established
- Outcome for the unbelieving
  - fall and be broken...be snared and caught..
    - Brought down from their pride. In bondage to their sin

The remnant are a sign to the nation

8:16-20 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples. And I will wait for Yahweh who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope for Him. Behold, I and the children whom Yahweh has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from Yahweh of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

- Bind up the testimony...among my disciples.
  - God's word would only be received by the remnant.
- I will wait.
  - In an apostate nation, Isaiah (and the believing remnant) will continue to trust and hope in Yahweh
  - As 1 Pet 1:3 ...he has caused us to be born again to a living hope...
- I and the children.
  - Isaiah and his family.
  - Heb 2:11-13 applies this verse to believers.
- Are for signs and wonders. Demonstrating Yahweh to an unbelieving nation

Stay with Yahweh and His word

8:19-20 Now when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

- Inquire of the mediums and the spiritists.
  - The nation chose to find their truth outside of God.
    - Mediums = spiritual
    - Spiritists (magicians) = technical
- To the law and to the testimony!
  - The remnant is to look to Yahweh's word for truth.
- If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.
  - Characteristic of unbelievers: without the light of the world (Jn 8:12)

Apostasy will end in distress and darkness

8:21-22 And they will pass through the land hard-pressed and hungry, and it will be that when they are hungry, they will be angry and curse their king and their God as they face upward. Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be banished into thick darkness.

- They. The nation who have abandoned their God and His word.
- pass through the land, hard-pressed and hungry.
  - Go into exile in great privation.
- angry.
  - No repentance; anger and rebellion against government and against God.
  - As tribulation unbelievers in Rev 16:10-11.
- Look to the earth...distress and darkness.
  - No hope anywhere.
- Banished into thick darkness
  - Their final end

The Royal Hope 9:1-7

- Here is the final section of Isaiah's prophecy to Judah.
- In contrast to the darkness awaiting the unbelieving nation, the believing remnant look forward in hope to the coming dawn. Their light will appear in the form of a coming King.
- Structure:
  - Prose introduction (v1) Poem (v2-7)
  - Hope described (v1-5) Hope explained (v6-7)

Hope is described

Light

9:1-2 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in the land of the shadow of death, The light will shine on them.

- No gloom...a great light
  - The previous section ended with unending gloom and anguish awaiting the unbelieving nation. They had no dawn (8:20)
  - In contrast, the believing remnant can look beyond the present darkness to the coming light.
- Galilee of the Gentiles
  - The first part of Israel to be conquered by Assyria in 735 and resettled.
  - Will be where the true light of the world first shines.
- Will see a great light.
  - Not of their doing.
  - Jn 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone.

## Blessings

9:3 You shall multiply the nation, You shall make great their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

- Nation multiplied
  - National increase as promised to Abraham in Gen 15:5 And He brought him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your seed be."
- Gladness
  - Two pictures: (1) plentiful harvest (2) victory in warfare, with much spoil.
- Authentic worship.
  - In Your presence
  - As Psa 27:6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with loud shouts of joy; I will sing, and I will sing praises to Yahweh.

## Oppression ended

9:4-5 For You shall shatter the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their taskmaster, as at the battle of Midian. For every boot of the booted warrior in the rumbling of battle, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

- Shatter yoke...staff...rod.
  - Delivery from bondage & oppression
- Battle of Midian
  - Gideon defeats Midian w 300 men in Judges 7. A victory by Yahweh.
  - Can refer to political deliverance. Also to deliverance from sin.
- Boot...garment...burned
  - Soldier's boots and clothing are burned. Implies weapons also.
  - Complete peace.

Hope is explained

Coming King

9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

- Child.
  - Same child as in Isa 7:14 ...Behold, the virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
  - Contrast the nations whose hope is in economic and military power; Yahweh's people hope in a Child.
- Son. A unique Son.
  - Son of Man. Dan 7:13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming.
  - Son of David. 2 Sam 7:12-13 ...I will raise up one of your seed after you, who will come forth from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.
  - Son of God. Ps 2:7 "I will surely tell of the decree of Yahweh: He said to Me, 'You are My Son...
- the government shall be upon his shoulder.
  - He will rule. 2 Sam 7:13 ... I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
- His name shall be called.
  - As in 7:14, stress on His name. Declares the person.
  - Four names, each composed of two words, indicating deity and humanity: (of this world / NOT OF THIS WORLD)

PELE'	yo'etz	'EL	gibbor	'avi	'AD	sar	SHALOM
Wonderful	Counselor	God	Mighty	Father	Everlasting	Prince	Peace

- Wonderful Counselor.
  - Wonderful.
    - Heb pele'. Noun:a wonder. Usually referring to Yahweh Himself and His works.
  - Counselor.
    - With the spirit of wisdom
    - As Is 11:2 The Spirit of Yahweh will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and might, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of Yahweh.
    - Contrast Ahaz, whose decisions ruined Judah.
    - Transcending Solomon, the wisest of men. As Mat 12:42 ... behold, something greater than Solomon is here.
- Mighty God.
  - Used in Is 10:21 to refer to Yahweh Himself.
  - Mighty. Heb gibbor: hero. The Messiah.



- Everlasting Father.
  - Everlasting.
    - Established forever.
  - Father.
    - As a father to His people, bringing concern, care, discipline.
    - Is 63:16...You, O Yahweh, are our Father...
- Prince of Peace.
  - Prince.
    - Ruler and administrator.
    - As Eph 1:10 for an administration of the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him.
  - Peace.
    - Heb Shalom: wholeness, completeness.
    - Of God
    - True peace because the cause of strife (sin) is removed. Ro 5:1 ...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Eternal throne

9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.

- No end.
  - Fulfilling the promise made to David in 2 Sam 7:16 "And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.""
- justice...righteousness. The basis of His rule, rather than power.

#### Divine zeal

9:7 The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will accomplish this.

- This will be brought about by God in spite of the present situation with Assyria.

### Summary of the message to Judah

- In the crisis with Israel & Syria, Ahaz and Judah chose to forsake Yahweh.
- As a result, God was bringing Assyria to conquer Judah and devastate it. Only Jerusalem would remain.
- The nations intended to destroy God's people. But their plans would not come to pass.
- There would be a remnant who remained faithful to their God.
- They were not to fear what the unbelievers feared, but trust in God's word.
- Their hope lay in a coming Child, who as King would sit on the throne of David and rule the nations. Under His reign, there would be peace forever.

### Application

Isaiah's message to the believing remnant was

- Do not walk in the way of the unbelieving nation
  - Don't say that our nation's troubles are because of a conspiracy
  - Don't fear what they fear
  - Fear Yahweh and regard Him as holy
- You are a sign to the nation
- Stay with Yahweh and His word

How can we apply this today?

### References

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