

LESSON 6

Immanuel is Coming!

Isaiah Chapters 7-8

See also: II Kings 16, II Chronicles 28

Chapter 7

II Kings 16 and II Chronicles 28 tell of the reign of King Ahaz in Judah, which give us background for the events in Isaiah chapter 7. He was one of the worst kings in Judah. He worshipped idols, and went so far as to make idols himself. II Chronicles 28:19 says that “he had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the Lord.” He caused the entire nation to backslide.

1. During King Ahaz’s reign of Judah (the southern kingdom), Israel (the northern kingdom) joined forces with Syria to come against King Ahaz. Instead of seeking the Lord’s help, where did King Ahaz go for help, according to II Kings 16:7-9?
 - a. II Chronicles 28:19-21 elaborates. Did Assyria provide the help Ahaz was looking for?
2. As Syria and Israel made war against Judah, what was the response of King Ahaz and the people of Judah (verse 1-2)?
3. The Lord asked Isaiah and his son to meet with King Ahaz.
 - a. What was God’s message of hope to King Ahaz in verses 3-9?
 - b. What was God’s perspective on the two kings coming against Judah (verse 4)?
 - c. What were God’s predictions for these two kings (verses 5-9)?

If King Ahaz had chosen to believe God’s promise, he would have broken his alliance with Assyria and called the nation to prayer and praise.

4. In verse 10, the Lord offers to give unbelieving Ahaz a sign proving the truth of His words. What was King Ahaz’s response (verse 12)?

5. God responded to Ahaz's refusal to ask for a sign of temporary salvation (for Judah) by giving a sign of His permanent salvation to come. It was a sign, not just to him, but according to verse 13, to the entire house of David. The sign in verse 14 are words that are very familiar to us. What is the sign? How does Matthew 1:23 confirm that this was a prophesy that pointed to Jesus the Messiah?
6. How does the meaning of "Immanuel" bring comfort and hope?
7. Isaiah predicted the Assyrian invasion of Judah in verse 17. In the remainder of the chapter (verse 18-25), Isaiah describes this invasion. The Lord will "whistle" for Judah's enemies. Egypt is full of flies and Assyria was noted for beekeeping. God will summon armies from these powerful countries to attempt to overrun Judah and take people into exile.
 - a. What illustration does God use to describe Judah's humiliation in verse 20?
 - b. How would the land of Judah be affected according to verses 21-25?

Chapter 8

8. In Isaiah 8:1-2, Isaiah wrote his second son's name out in the presence of witnesses before the baby was born. What would the child's name be and what did it mean? (See question 16 for help)
 - a. This name was prophetic in nature. In the "near" fulfillment, before his child could talk, what would happen to Israel and Syria (verse 4)?
9. Isaiah used two examples to show the rulers of Judah that they were making a mistake by trusting Assyria.
 - a. Verses 6-10 (peaceful pool vs raging river): How will Assyria's army be like a raging river? Will the Assyrian army totally overrun Judah (see verse 8)

- b. Verses 11-15 (sanctuary vs trap):
- i. Instead of fearing this alliance between Israel and Syria, what should they do instead (verses 12-13)?
 - ii. To those who fear God, He will be as a sanctuary. To those who don't trust the Lord, what will He be (verses 14-15)?
10. The phrases “a stone of stumbling” and “a rock of offense” are familiar phrases applied to Jesus in the New Testament. What do you learn from the following verses?
- a. I Corinthians 1:23-2
 - b. I Peter 2:7-8
11. God gives some wise advice to Judah in verses 16-17. What was it?
12. In verse 18, Isaiah confirms that his name and that of his two sons were signs to the nation. See the meanings of their names below. What is God's message to Israel?
- Mahe-Shalal-Hash-Baz = speed the spoil, hurry to the plunder*
Shear-Jashub = a remnant shall return
Isaiah = Salvation is of the Lord
13. In verse 16, Isaiah gathered his disciples and he encourages them. When others tell you to listen to astrologers or wizards, turn to God alone. This is a warning about mediums (those who profess to have power to summon the spirits of the dead). What does God have to say about consulting mediums and wizards?
- a. Deuteronomy 18:10-12
 - b. Leviticus 20:27
14. Instead of seeking counsel through the occult, Isaiah emphatically declares: “To the law and to the testimony!” Where should God's people look for counsel (verses 19-20)?

When the enemy bears down on us, are we going to try to fix things ourselves? Are we going to ally with the enemy like Ahaz did? Or are we going remember God's promise to be with us? Where will you look for deliverance?