

Predictions of the Future Messiah Intermingled with the Present Political Crisis

Isaiah 7–12

Study Outline—Isaiah 7–9

- Messianic prophecies
- The present political crisis—the threat to Judah from Syria and Israel.
- Ahaz's response to this threat.
- The cruel irony in Judah seeking Assyria's help.
- Punishment to come to Israel, too.
- The underlying theme to this whole section.

Messianic Prophecies

- “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Immanuel” (7:14).
- “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:22–23).

Messianic Prophecies

- Isaiah 9:1–7
 - Where is at least a portion of this quoted in the N.T.?
 - Matthew 4:13–16
 - Darkness and gloom now, but light and hope in the future. The reason...
 - “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (9:6).

Prior Invasion #1

- Rezin, king of Syria, and Pekah, king of Ephraim (Israel) formed an alliance and first attacked Judah while Jotham was still on the throne.
- “In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah” (2 Kings 15:37).

Prior Invasion #2

- When Ahaz became king, this alliance came a second time against Jerusalem. Results:
 - Ahaz was delivered to the king of Syria, and a great multitude was taken captive to **Damascus** (2 Chron. 28:5).
 - Pekah killed 120,000 in one day, and a great multitude was taken captive to **Samaria** (2 Chron. 28:6–8).
 - On the prophet Oded's counsel, these captives were later released in Jericho (2 Chron. 28:9–15).

Present Invasion

- Rezin and Pekah “went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it (Isaiah 7:1; almost identical to 2 Kings 16:5).
- How did Ahaz and his people react when they learned of this deployment?
 - “His heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved” (Isaiah 7:2).

Present Invasion

- Did the Lord offer any assurances to Ahaz?
 - “Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah” (Isaiah 7:4).
 - Their plot against you “shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass” (Isaiah 7:6).
 - “For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings” (Isaiah 7:16). See 8:3–4.

Ahaz's response to the threat

- “If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established” (Isaiah 7:9). Did Ahaz believe—did he trust the Lord’s promises?
- “So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath–Pileser king of Assyria, saying, ‘I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me’” (2 Kings 16:7).
- And how did Tiglath–Pileser respond?

Cruel Irony

- What is the irony in Ahaz turning to Assyria for help?
 - “The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father’s house...” (7:17).
 - Head, legs, and beard will all be “shaved” (7:20).

Israel's Punishment

- What did they “say in pride and arrogance of heart”? (9:9–10).
- “For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still” (9:12, 17, 21). What does this phrase indicate?
 - “For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, nor do they seek the LORD of hosts” (9:13).
- Note the indictment against the leaders (9:14–16).

Underlying Theme

- “Do not say, ‘A conspiracy,’ concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow; let Him be Your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary...”
(8:13–14).
- Where is at least a portion of this passage quoted in the N.T.?

Underlying Theme

- “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.’ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:14–15).

Underlying Theme

- Unlike Ahaz, Isaiah says, “I will wait on the LORD...I will hope (trust, look for) in Him” (8:16).
- Where do we direct ourselves and others to seek God’s wisdom?
 - “To the law and to the testimony!” (8:20).