

DID YOU EVER STUDY ISAIAH CHAPTERS 7 & 8, AND THAT STILL SMALL VOICE SAID; “you missed something”, ESPECIALLY ON THE PROPHECY OF “IMMANUEL”? TAKE A LOOK AT MY MOST RECENT BIBLE STUDY, AND SEE IF IT HELPS ANY!

The God Son, A Natural Son; Yet One Son of Prophecy

During this time (*about 746 to 730 B.C.*) of Isaiah’s prophecy king Ahaz of Judah (*the Southern Kingdom of Israel*) is worried because Judah has been attacked by her sister nation to the north (*Samaria, or Northern Kingdom of Israel, sometimes referred to as Ephraim*) and her ally, Syria. The king of Samaria at the time is Pekah, and the king of Syria is Rezin. So we see beginning in *verse 3 of Chapter 7* that God sends Isaiah to encourage Ahaz not to fear Samaria and Syria; that neither king will remain in power much longer, and that Samaria will cease to be a nation within sixty five (65) years (*Isaiah 7:8*).

In the midst of Isaiah’s message encouraging Ahaz, a prophecy is revealed having a manifestation in the immediate future as a sign of the imminent captivity of Israel (*Northern Kingdom*), by Assyria. In addition the prophecy revealed a second (2nd) manifestation far into the future of what we know from the New Testament Gospels as the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

Thus our title, “**A God Son A Natural Son, Yet One Son of Prophecy**” is a sign to Israel of her impending destruction and “The Sign” to every nation of the first appearing of Jesus Christ; Messiah. So then we see there are three (3) events within the prophecy. Let’s begin reading at Chapter 7, verse 1 and make some clarifying comments.

Isaiah Chapters 7 and 8

Isa 7:1 And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.

Isa 7:2 And it was told the house of David (*or Ahaz*), saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his (*Ahaz’s*) heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind. (*In other words, they became afraid?*).

Isa 7:3 Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field;

Isa 7:4 And say unto him (*Ahaz*), Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two (2) tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.

Samaria and Syria are referred to as two (2) tails of smoke from firebrands. A firebrand has the potential to cause damage, but smoke is easily dispersed by a mild wind. This is a way of saying that these two (2) are all bark and no bite. But their intent was to take over Judah and install a king of their choosing.

Isa 7:5 Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee (**Ahaz of Judah**), saying,

Isa 7:6 Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, **even** the son of Tabeal:

Isa 7:7 Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.

Isa 7:8 For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five (**65**) years (**a score is 20 years**) shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people (**or nation**).

Isa 7:9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If ye will not **believe**, surely ye shall not be established.

Isa 7:10 Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying,

Isa 7:11 Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

Isaiah says to Ahaz, so that you know what God says will come to pass, ask a sign of Him.

Isa 7:12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.

Isa 7:13 And he (**Isaiah**) said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Verse 7:14 is, “The Sign” to Every Nation throughout the ages of God’s “plan of recovery from destruction” for all peoples, as promised by prophecy in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament (Matthew, Mark Luke and John). It is that special prophecy of prophecies that those who “know” and “believes” in God, refers to as the virgin birth of Jesus, the Lord.

Without the New Testament fulfilling of Jesus, one might conclude that Chapter 8 verses 1 through 4, alone, fulfills the words of the signs (the sign of Samaria’s destruction; and the sign of the birth of Immanuel; and the birth of Mahershalalhashbaz).

The sign that is the manifestation of the virgin birth of Jesus (Immanuel) is spiritual in origin, whereas verses 8:1 through 8:4 are about natural manifestations.

We can know for certain that the scriptures are talking about two different sons to describe the one son; because the son in this verse (7:14) is to be called Immanuel (God with us) and the other is to be called Mahershalalhashbaz. And so, the prophecy of the one son is as sure as the other; because Jesus is 100% God, and 100% man (or natural)!

Today we have the Holy Spirit helping us in “hindsight” to see this; but I question whether this was understood by all, when Isaiah first prophesied it!

Let’s read about the natural son and his human genealogy, just as Jesus (Immanuel) has His human genealogy, too. Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Isa 8:1 Moreover the LORD said unto me, Take thee a great roll, and write in it with a man's pen concerning Mahershalalhashbaz.

Isa 8:2 And I (*Isaiah*) took unto me faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.

Isa 8:3 And I (*Isaiah*) went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz.

Isa 8:4 For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria. (*The events of the prophecy are of one prophecy concerning Messiah; therefore, before the natural man of Jesus can speak the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before (or by) the king of Assyria*)

The natural implication of verses 8:1 through 8:3 is that Isaiah married the prophetess according to Jewish laws and traditions, because he took witnesses that are priests (Uriah and Zechariah) with him. Since Isaiah is a prophet of God, I don't believe he did anything improper, and the prophetess was no doubt a Jewish virgin. However, conception in the natural process also takes away the virgin status, thus this natural son (Mahershalalhashbaz) was not born of a virgin in this case.

Verse 7:14 says "a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son", which means the virgin was not taken away by the conception; resulting in the Son (Jesus) being born of a virgin indeed. This sign is spiritual (or by the Holy Spirit), and we can understand, by considering the Old Testament along side the New Testament, the full prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 7 and 8 as one prophecy.

Verse 8:1 through 8:4 is a sign according to natural events that Samaria will be taken captive of Assyria, and will cease to be a nation. We see this as we continue reading at Isaiah verse 8:5.

Isa 8:5 The LORD spake also unto me again, saying,

Isa 8:6 Forasmuch as this people (*Samaria of Israel*) refuseth the waters of Shiloah (*Jerusalem, house of David, or Judah*) that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin (*or Syria*) and Remaliah's son (*who is Pekah, the present king of Samaria*);

Isa 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them (*Samaria*) the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels (*or borders*), and go over all his banks: (*This scripture says that God will enlarge, or allow, the borders of Assyria to expand like a river overflows its banks; and take possession of other nation's borders!*).

Isa 8:8 And he (*Assyria*) shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel (*the virgin Son promised of the Holy Spirit*).

(This scripture is directed to the Son identified in verse 7:14, the Lord Jesus, king of the Jews. This lets us know that the decrees of God are not bound by time. His word is true for all times. Jesus is savior and king even in Isaiah's time. He is of the virgin; the daughter of Zion (2 Kings 19:21 and 19:22); everlasting as God the Father is everlasting. He was manifested as the man Jesus in the time of the New Testament Gospels. This testifies and adds to the witness of the sure reality of the resurrected Jesus, and the promises of eternal life for those that believe and follow after Him).

But the judgment upon Israel for this time in history is already settled, and no one can change it!

Thus, it seems fool hearty for anyone to contradict the remaining prophecies yet to be fulfilled by Judeo – Christian Scripture!?

Isa 8:9 Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. ***(God is saying, whatever Samaria does will not help her to escape the coming Assyrian takeover and defeat).***

Isa 8:10 Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us. ***(You can even say “God is with us”; that won’t the judgment either!).***

Isaiah says this instruction from God is what we read in verses 8:11 through 8:14:

Isa 8:11 For the LORD spake thus to me (*Isaiah*) with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,

Isa 8:12 Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. ***(Don’t trust in human alliances for deliverance, but trust in God, sanctify and fear him).***

Isa 8:13 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

Isa 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses (*Samaria and Judah*) of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ***(We see in the Bible record how Israel has stumbled over the full intent of the purpose and plan of God. And not Israel alone; for so many through the ages have not understood nor believed the word of God).***

Isa 8:15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Isa 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

Isa 8:17 And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Isa 8:18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

Isaiah is saying in these series of scriptures (8:15 through 8:22), you are stumbling, falling, and are broken because you don’t receive the ones given you by God

(Verse 8:18 “Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion”.

But you listen to those that tell you to seek familiar spirits, or seek the dead for answers concerning the living (Be warned: Familiar spirits; false gods, and idols are dead!).

And when things don’t work out you blame the king and God. If those that are instructing you do not speak according to the word of God, there is no light in them).

Isa 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Isa 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Isa 8:21 And they shall pass through it (*the word, the law and testimony*), hardly bestead (*or un-productive*) and hungry: and it shall come to pass, that when they shall be hungry, they shall fret themselves, and curse their king and their God, and look upward. (*It is not readily obvious what “they shall pass through” in this verse. But it could be either or all the terms indicated, since the nations have lost their way and are in false god\ idol worship*).

Isa 8:22 And they shall look unto the earth; and behold trouble and darkness, dimness of anguish; and they shall be driven to darkness.

So the three (3) events are presented as signs of one prophecy: The demise of Samaria at the hand of Assyria, within threescore and five years (Isaiah verse 7:8); the birth of the natural son Mahershalhashbaz; and the birth of the God Son, Immanuel (the Lord Jesus Christ) as so many witnessed (recorded) according to the New Testament Gospels.

This prophecy of signs are so interwoven that it is not immediately obvious where (or if) the one ends and the other takes over. For example, naturally speaking Isaiah verse 7:15 seem to be about Jesus, whereas verse 7:16 appears to be about the son that is born to Isaiah and the prophetess in verses 8:1 through 8:3. But given that the conception of Jesus was not of natural origin we conclude that he was born knowing to refuse the evil, and choose the good. And we take by faith, Isaiah's words that before either son could speak their choices, Samaria and Syria did indeed loose their kings, because the record of God is true, (and the prophecy was fulfilled).

Today in our time we see from historical record the conquests by Assyria according to Isaiah's prophecy.

Isa 7:15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Isa 7:16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Judah narrowly escaped from Assyria in 722 B.C.; but they did not escape the Babylonians in 586 B.C.:

According to these remaining verses Isaiah prophesy and inform King Ahaz about Judah's narrow escape from Assyria, and the destruction of Samaria at the hand of Assyria.

Isa 7:17 The LORD shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria.

We know even from secular history that Assyria destroyed Samaria, the Northern Kingdom about 722 B.C., and it (Israel, the Northern Kingdom) never recovered. The people were scattered, and are sometimes referred to as the “ten lost tribes of Israel”.

Assyria also ravages the country side of Judah (Isaiah Chapter 36 through 39; also 2 Kings Chapters 17 through 19) during Hezekiah's reign about 729 to 700 B.C. after the reign of Ahaz, but there was no permanent damage to the nation of Judah, until Babylon took them captive around 586 B.C.

Isa 7:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss (*or call*) for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. ***(The flies and the bees are enemies coming into the land. We see from secular history that even after God recovered Judah from Babylonian captivity, their enemies remained among them even unto today. The scriptures tell us that only Jesus will give them rest from their enemies. But as a nation they must recognize who he is first, and they have not done that yet).***

Isa 7:19 And they shall come, and shall rest all of them (*flies, bees*) in the desolate valleys, and in the holes of the rocks, and upon all thorns, and upon all bushes.

Isa 7:20 In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

Isa 7:21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man shall nourish a young cow, and two sheep;

Isa 7:22 And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give he shall eat butter: for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land. ***(This verse seems to point far into the future "end time" of Judah's deliverance. It is Judah that is the remnant of Israel. The ten (10) tribes of Samaria did not return as a people, because the judgment of God on them was final, as a nation).***

This has been the fate of Samaria (also refer to 2 Kings Chapter 17):

Isa 7:23 And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand (*1, 000*) vines at a thousand (*1, 000*) silverlings, it shall even be for briers and thorns.

Isa 7:24 With arrows and with bows shall men come thither; because all the land shall become briers and thorns.

Isa 7:25 And on all hills that shall be digged with the mattock, there shall not come thither the fear of briers and thorns: but it shall be for the sending forth of oxen, and for the treading of lesser cattle.

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