

A BETTER KING, SERVANT, CONQUEROR

The Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 7:1—9:7

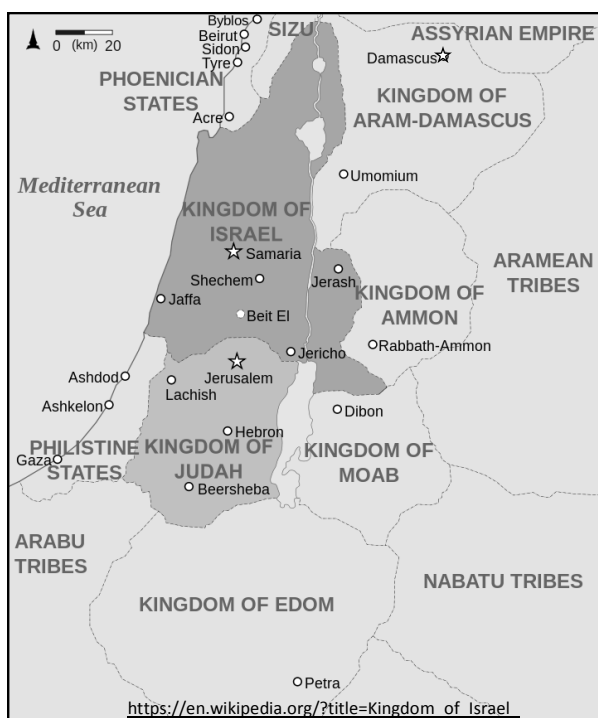
Verse to Remember

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Historical Context

Isaiah 7 is set in the year 734 B.C.,¹ approximately six years after the calling of Isaiah recorded in chapter 6.



Day 1 — Read Isaiah 7:1-9.

1. Use the map and chart to get your bearings on the geography and characters discussed in chapter 7.
 - a. Highlight the following cities or areas on the map: **Judah, Aram, Israel, Jerusalem, Damascus, Samaria, and Assyria.**
 - b. Then fill in the chart.

Nation	Capital City	King
Judah (house of David)		
Aram (Syria)		
Israel (Ephraim or Jacob)		

2. Earlier Judah had suffered terribly under separate attacks from Aram and Israel (2 Chr. 28:5–8). What now causes the hearts of Ahaz and his people to shake? (Is. 7:2, 4–6; Consult the map to get a sense of what's happening.)
3. The word Isaiah brings to Ahaz (7:4a) seems glib given the fierceness of the foes he faces. What example of Judah's history with her God would prove that it is not? (2 Chr. 20:2–24)

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4. What perspective does God give to Ahaz through Isaiah? (Is. 7:4–9)

5. What history do you have with God that can encourage you in present or future troubles?

Day 2 — Read Isaiah 7:10–25.

Many of the prophecies in Isaiah were fulfilled in Old Testament times, but also find their **ultimate fulfillment in Christ** and his work. The sign in chapter 7 is one example of this kind of **dual fulfillment**.

1. The LORD, knowing Ahaz's faithless heart, invites him to ask for a sign of his choosing to confirm the message he just received, but Ahaz refuses: "Therefore the LORD himself will give [him] a sign" (7:12–14). What is the sign? (Is. 7:14)
2. The sign given to Ahaz will be fulfilled in the near future and more fully in the distant future.
 - a. How is it fulfilled in the near future? (Is. 8:1–4; Note: the "prophetess" is likely a reference to Isaiah's second wife, at the time a virgin.)

b. How was it fulfilled more than 700 years into the distant future? (Mt. 1:18–23)

3. The child of the virgin will be called Immanuel, which means "God with us."
 - a. What is the significance of the name for Isaiah's generation? (Is. 8:9–10)


b. What is the significance of the name for future generations?
Jn. 1:1, 14

Jn. 14:16–20

c. What is the significance of this name for you?


Commentator Alec Motyer says, "**Immanuel is a truth as well as a name... God himself is present as the security of his people.**"²

Day 3 — Read Isaiah 8:1–10.

1. As noted in the New International Version footnote, the name of Isaiah’s second son means “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil.” How is the prophecy given through this name fulfilled? (Is. 7:16–17; Is. 8:4;  * 2 Kgs. 15:29–30; 2 Kgs. 16:9)
2. God delivers Judah from this threat posed by Aram and Israel; however, later the people will suffer consequences for their rejection of God.
 - a. How does Judah reject “the gently flowing waters of Shiloah” (8:6a)? (2 Kgs. 16:7–18; 2 Chr. 28:16–25)
 - b. What will be the consequences of this rejection? (Is. 8:7–8)
3. Is there any hope in the midst of such anticipated destruction? (Is. 8:10; Note the name of Isaiah’s first son who accompanied him to the aqueduct means “a remnant will return.”⁴)

"In 7:3 Ahaz, under threat of invasion and siege, was [out at the aqueduct] looking at his vulnerable water supply ["the gently flowing waters of Shiloah"].... To live in Jerusalem...required faith that the Lord would stand by his promises that this was the city he had chosen and which he would defend."³

Day 4 — Read Isaiah 8:11–22.

1. God calls Isaiah to live differently from the people of Judah.
 - a. What does this calling look like for him? (Is. 8:11–13, 16–17, 19–20)
 - b. What does he find when he lives this way? (Is. 8:14a;  Ps. 90:1)
 - c. What is the alternative to “stand[ing] firm in your faith” (7:9b)? (Is. 7:9; Is. 8:14–15, 21–22)
 - d. How are we similarly encouraged to live? (2 Pet. 3:9–14)

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2. The New Testament writers pick up on Isaiah's imagery of a stone that causes stumbling and a rock that makes people fall (8:14–15). How do these writers understand the images? (Rom. 9:30–10:4; 1 Pet. 2:6–8)

Day 5 — Read Isaiah 8:22–9:7.

1. In light of 8:22 what is the good news in 9:1–2?

How will God fulfill these promises? (Mt. 4:12–16; Lk. 2:25–32; Jn. 8:12)

2. What transformations does Isaiah see in the future for the nation? (Is. 9:3–5)

3. All gloom is ultimately put away because a child is born.
 - a. What do the titles for this “son” tell you about him? (Is. 9:6)

We are all familiar with
John 3:16.
Read it afresh in light of
Isaiah 9:6.

- b. How does the description of his reign in 9:7 encourage you?

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted: Feeling Secure in the Arms of God* (Colorado Springs, CO.: David C. Cook, 1992), 42.

² J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction & Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 92, 94.

³ Motyer, 91.

⁴ NIV text note on Isaiah 7:3.