

## A Trek Through Isaiah 12 - Is 7:13 - 8:8

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Prayer

### Introduction (to 9:35)

For today

- Message to Judah 2
  - Divine Judgement 7:13 – 8:8

### No longer walk as the Gentiles do (to 9:39)

Elements of worship: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

Eph 4:17-19 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. 18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, **greedy to practice every kind of impurity.**

- greedy to practice every kind of impurity.
  - Greedy. Never satisfied.
  - Practice. Do continually.
  - Ro 6:19 9 I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.
    - Natural limitations. All people are slaves of something, either of sin or of righteousness.
    - Once we were slaves of sin.
      - Eph 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
      - Sin is not passive. Sin is active and aggressive.
      - The result is more and more lawlessness leading to death.
    - Now we can be slaves of righteousness.
      - Rom 6:13-14 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (14) For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
        - Sin no longer has dominion over us.
        - Choose to be slaves to Christ.
  - Let us be greedy to practice righteousness
    - 1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation..
      - As a newborn baby, longing for the word.
      - Growing up into salvation leading to life..

## Divine Judgement 7:13 – 8:8

### Context (to 9:41)

- Ch 7 - 11 are matching addresses to Judah and Israel
- 7:1-12 God's word comes to Ahaz
  - Ahaz a wicked King
  - Crisis: Israel & Syria brought to attack Judah.
  - Isaiah speaks to King Ahaz: Do not fear. Be firm in faith. Ask a sign
  - Ahaz replies: I will not ask.
    - He had decided not to trust.

### 7:13-14 The sign (to 9:46)

And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

- You...you. Plural. Isaiah turns to speak to the court
- Will give you. Ahaz was denying the promise of God to maintain the throne of David, so God will reconfirm the covenant with a sign to the house of David.
- Behold. Heb hinneh: announcement of great importance.
- Virgin.
  - Heb almah
  - Much controversy. Often said that almah can mean a young woman, married/unmarried, good/bad.
  - Points (From Young, Motyer)
    - A woman who is a **virgin** will bear a **child**
      - The definite article could refer to a particular woman who was well-known, but none is known. More likely, Isaiah is indicating a type of woman.
      - What type of woman? In Scripture, almah used for virgin, young woman. Never refers to a married woman. Almah is the only Heb word that can specifically mean a woman who is sexually mature but has not known a man.
    - The woman will be **good**.
      - Matthew refers this passage to the birth of the Messiah
        - Mat 1:22-23 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: (23) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).
      - The context of Isaiah and of the whole Bible rules out an illegitimate birth.
      - An illegitimate birth would not have been out of the ordinary.

- Fulfillment
  - Various ideas for near-term fulfillment but all have issues.
  - Young proposes no near-term fulfillment. Isaiah uses the time for a child to grow as an illustration of the time before the coming judgment.

### **7:15-17 The judgment (to 9:50)**

He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. 17 The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

- before the boy knows. Time span for the fulfillment of the prophecy. Perhaps 13y (Jewish age of accountability).
- two kings you dread. Ahaz feared them. Isaiah tells why there is no need to fear them
- God bringing **Assyria**. What Ahaz had desired.
  - 2Ki 16:7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me."

### **7:18-25 Invasion by Assyria: four illustrations (to 9:54)**

Describing the coming invasion. Four pictures each starting with “in that day”.

#### **V18-19 Invasion**

Isa 7:18-19 In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. (19) And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

- Picture of insect swarms. Egypt known for flies; Assyria for bees.
- they will all come and settle. No longer kept away by the LORD.

#### **V20 Humiliation**

Isa 7:20 In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also.

- Hired. By Ahaz.
- Head...Hair of the feet (pubic hair)...beard. Clean shaving = complete humiliation but not complete destruction.

#### **V21-22 Poverty**

Isa 7:21-22 In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, (22) and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.

- Contrast the former wealth of the kingdom
  - 1Ki 10:23 Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.
  - Isa 2:7 Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots.

#### **V23-25 Desolation**

Isa 7:23-25 In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns. (24) With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briars and thorns. (25) And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briars and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

- Briars and thorns: A wasteland.
- Contrast the great estates that Isaiah saw
  - Isa 5:8 Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, until there is no more room, and you are made to dwell alone in the midst of the land.
    - Large houses with many fields.

### 8:1-8 Proclamation of coming devastation (to 10:00)

- Three signs of the coming devastation of Judah

#### V1-2 First sign: Public **posting**

Isa 8:1-2 Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, 'Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz.' (2) And I will get reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me

- large tablet. Like a billboard.
- Impressionist phrasing: Speed Spoil Haste Booty
- God identifies faithful witnesses to attest to posting of the message.

#### V3-4 Second sign: **Child**

Isa 8:3-4 And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz; (4) for before the boy knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

- For before... concerning immediate events
- Fulfillment of the prophecy concerning Isaiah's son would be evidence that the prophecy concerning the future virgin birth would also be fulfilled.

### V5-8 Third sign: Prophetic illustrations

Isa 8:5-8 The LORD spoke to me again: (6) "Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, (7) therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, (8) and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel."

- MOTYER points out that if you choose the world, you get the world in full measure.
- Illustration of two waters (v6-8a)
  - waters of Shiloh. Pool near Jerusalem = Davidic leadership.
  - Waters of the river. Euphrates = Assyria.
  - Gentle waters refused, so there will be a flood.
  - Contrast the action of the waters
    - Shiloh: gentle and refreshing.
    - The River: mighty and many: an overwhelming destructive flood
  - Even to the neck. Not covering the head (Jerusalem)
- Illustration of bird of prey (v8b)
  - Outspread wings. The Assyrian deity Nimroch was depicted as a man with an eagle's head and wings.
  - fill the breadth. All Judah will be filled with the Assyrian army. However, they can only come as far as the LORD allows.
- Your land O Immanuel. Re 7:14.
  - Immanuel. The wonderful name: God with us.
  - Your land. Assyria may occupy it for a time, but the land belongs to the sovereign LORD.

## Worship (to 10:15)

We will break into three groups to discuss today's passage. Here are the topics:

1. **God's zeal** - Is 7:14 The virgin will be with child...
  - a. As foretold in Gen 3:15 the seed of the woman
    - i. In spite of nature
    - ii. In spite of Satan and all enemies
  - b. Is 9:7 The zeal of the Lord will do this.
2. **God's grace** - Is 7:14 ...will call His name Immanuel... Mt 1:23 ...which means, "God with us".
  - a. While we were yet sinners...He humbled Himself to become a man, then to death on a cross.
3. **God's sovereignty** - Is 7:17 The Lord will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."
  - a. God is faithful
    - i. Judgment for the unbelieving nation.
    - ii. Discipline & preservation for the believing remnant.

Join the group with the topic that seems most significant. Must be at least three people in each group. Select one person to scribe. Each group will report to the class what they found.

In your group, discuss

- **See:** Something about God that you see in the passage
- **Know:** The effect that this view of God has upon you.
- **Respond:** A way to respond to what you have seen and come to know.

Caution: Please focus on personal effects and responses.

- 2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....

For next week: Is 8:9 - 9:7

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