

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 223 – The Days Of Ahaz Through On All Hills Digged (Isaiah 7:1-25)

1. Who was the king of Judah when Rezin and Pekah went up to attack Jerusalem?

Ahaz the son of Jotham: *“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” (Isaiah 7:1).*

- This information helps us parallel our studies (**II Kings 16:1-20**).
- Ahaz was killed by the king of Samara and Pekah (king of Israel) slew 120,000 valiant men in Judah in one day and took 200,000 captives of Judah along with spoil to Samaria (**II Chronicles 28:1-8**).
- As we will address in question 3, they will do damage to Judah, God will not let this be the ruin of Judah.

2. What did news that Syria is confederate with Ephraim do to the house of David?

Moved their hearts: *“And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind” (Isaiah 7:2).*

- The Syrians had “given rest; settled down” (meaning of the term “confederate”; Strong’s # 5117).
- They were in an alliance (**Isaiah 7:5**).
- The house of David is Judah, Jerusalem (**II Chronicles 34:3, Jeremiah 17:25, and Jeremiah 22:2**).
- Their hearts moved as trees in the wind as they were foretold would occur if they disobeyed God (**Deuteronomy 28:1-66**).
- Their fear shows something about their relationship with God (**Psalms 11:1, Psalms 27:1-2, and Proverbs 28:1**).

3. What message did God tell Isaiah and his son to bring to king Ahaz?

Not to worry about the confederacy of Syria and Ephraim: *“(3) Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shear-jashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller’s field; (4) And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah. (5) Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying, (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: (7) Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass” (Isaiah 7:3-7).*

- Prophets warned kings (**Jeremiah 22:1-5**).

- The conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field must have been some place particularly significant (**II Kings 18:17**).
- There would not be a king in place in Judah through the council of Syria and Ephraim. For what ended up happening, read **II Chronicles 28:9-27**. In short, Ahaz ends and Hezekiah, not Tabeal, becomes the king in Judah (**II Kings 16:20**).
- This is significant for the throne of David could not be taken away from Judah and the promise of Christ still come true (**Luke 1:31-32, Romans 1:3, and Hebrews 7:14**).

4. Did God date the existence of Ephraim from the time Isaiah was to go to Ahaz?

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

- Israel ceased to exist, as far as the ten tribes (including Ephraim) through the hands of the Assyrians (**II Kings 17:5-18**).

5. How important was faith in God's words to the establishment of His people?

Without faith they could not be established: *"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"* (**Isaiah 7:9**).

- **II Chronicles 20:20, Psalms 78:18-22, Romans 11:16-20, and Hebrews 11:6.**
- As Jerusalem was the capital of Judah, Samaria was of Israel (**Micah 1:1 and Micah 1:5-6**).

6. What did Ahaz do to cause the Lord to say he was wearying Him?

God wanted Ahaz to ask a sign of Him. Ahaz declined, said he did not want to tempt God. That did not make God happy: *"(10) Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, (11) Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. (12) But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD. (13) And he 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"* (**Isaiah 7:10-13**)?

- When God tells you to do something, you do it (**Luke 6:46, Romans 2:13, James 1:22, and I John 2:3**).
- You can tire God with being stupid (**Malachi 2:17**).

7. What prophesy did God give to Ahaz as a sign?

A prophesy concerning the virgin birth of Christ and how abhorred land (Syria and Israel) would be forsaken by both her kings: *"(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. (15) Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the*

good. (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” (Isaiah 7:14-16).

- This is about the virgin birth of Christ (**Matthew 1:18-25**).
- The child knowing to refuse evil... **Luke 2:40; 52**.
- This certainly was accomplished before Christ came into the world (**Isaiah 17:1-3**).

8. Did Isaiah have good news for Ahaz concerning the near future?

No, worse days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria. Infestations of insects shall come. Instead of valuable vines there will be thorns. Men with bows and arrows will come to hunt the loose herds among the rough terrain. Horrible stuff: “(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. (18) And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss 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. (19) And they shall come, and shall rest all of them in the desolate valleys, and in the holes of the rocks, and upon all thorns, and upon all bushes. (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. (21) And it shall come to pass in that day, that a man shall nourish a young cow, and two sheep; (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. (23) And it shall come to pass in that day, that every place shall be, where there were a thousand vines at a thousand silverlings, it shall even be for briers and thorns. (24) With arrows and with bows shall men come thither; because all the land shall become briers and thorns. (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” (Isaiah 7:17-25).

- The Lord will bring these things upon them (**II Chronicles 28:19**).
- Plagues of flies (**Exodus 8:24**).
- Bees (cf. **Deuteronomy 7:20**) or even figuratively of people (**Deuteronomy 1:44**).
- Shaved heads (**Ezekiel 29:18**).
- An abundance of flocks (**Isaiah 17:2**).
- Thorns (**Jeremiah 12:13**).
- Their land would become hunting grounds because of desolation, thorns, briers, etc.