

Isaiah ch 7-12 “ From Here to Eternity ”

In these six chapters the prophet Isaiah describes the current events occurring in Judah, and additionally makes a number of prophecies concerning the Messiah's first and second comings.

Isaiah 7 - The Messiah's Virgin Birth

1/12/2020

I. Man's Threat

v 1 - 2

v 1 After Isaiah's call to the ministry (ch 6), good king Jotham ruled the southern kingdom of Judah for 16 years (2 K 15:32-38). Now the wicked king Ahaz is on the throne. Meanwhile the Assyrian empire is growing in size and strength and expanding by conquering surrounding nations. The Northern kingdom (Israel) formed an alliance with Syria to defend themselves. They wanted Ahaz to join them and when he refused they decided to attack.

v 2 When Ahaz heard of the threat he was frightened. This godless king experienced *the spirit of fear* (2 Tim 1:7) because he was far from God.

II. God's Promise

v 3 - 9

God was not yet ready to deliver Judah into captivity. So he sent the prophet Isaiah and his son Shearjashub (*'the remnant shall return'*) with a message of hope. God is going to turn the tables on the evil alliance and allow the Assyrians to break them in judgment. The prophecy was made in 740 BC; Syria fell to Assyria in 732 BC and the northern kingdom (Israel) was carried off into the Assyrian captivity in 721 BC.

III. God's Sign

v 10 - 16

The Lord beseeches Ahaz to trust him (v 10-11), but the wicked king dismisses the entreaty with a pious denial (v 12). Ahaz is not worthy of David's throne, so the Lord speaks past Ahaz to the house of David and assures them of a miraculous sign: the virgin birth of Israel's Messiah (Mt 1:18; Lk 1:26-35). This miracle separates the birth of Jesus from every other man; and it is contested world-wide by religions and 'scholars' everywhere. Modern versions written by today's Sadducees change the word *virgin* to 'young woman' (RSV) or 'maiden' (NWT). The Lord allowed Isaiah to marry a young virgin and have a child for a partial fulfillment of this prophecy (8:1-4).

IV. God's Warning

v 17 - 25

Lastly, the Lord has his prophet turn his direction toward the Northern kingdom. He warns *Ephraim* (v 17) of their impending and certain judgment. The bitter fruit of their civil war with Judah was about to fall. The merciless Assyrians would be God's instruments of judgment. We must heed God's prophets; see 2 Chron 20:20.