

## ISAIAH 7

### *Worry about Assyria, Not Syria and Israel*

#### *Judah Called to Be Firm in Faith*

1 In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. 2 When the house of David was told,

Syria is in league with Ephraim,

the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.<sup>1</sup> 3 And Yahweh said to Isaiah,

Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. 4 And say to him,

Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint<sup>2</sup> because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. 5 Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you saying,

6 Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it.

7 Thus says Lord Yahweh: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. 8 For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people. 9 And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.

#### *Sign of the Virgin Birth*

10 Again Yahweh spoke to Ahaz:

11 Ask a sign of Yahweh your God. Let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.

12 But Ahaz said,

I will not ask, and I will not put Yahweh to the test.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Ahaz fails to practice the faith-rest drill. He proceeds into panic palace.

<sup>2</sup> Yahweh wants Ahaz to place his confidence, faith, and trust in himself to solve the problem.

<sup>3</sup> Usually this would be a good answer, but here it is a very bad answer. God wants Ahaz to ask for a sign to so that his faith may be strengthened. It is not a bait and switch. Ahaz is already testing Yahweh.

13 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 Yahweh himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin (עַלְמָה) shall conceive and bear a son (בֵּן)<sup>4</sup> and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.<sup>5</sup>

*Yahweh Will Bring Assyria upon Judah*

16 For before the boy (נְעָר) [Isaiah's son Shear-jashub?] knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.<sup>6</sup> 17 Yahweh will bring upon you, 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!<sup>7</sup>

18 In that day Yahweh 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.<sup>8</sup> 19 And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, in the clefts of the rocks, on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

20 In that day Yahweh 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.

21 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.

23 In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briers and thorns. 24 With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briers 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 briers and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

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<sup>4</sup> Is the child Jesus, a child of Isaiah's day, or both? Is the child of Isaiah's day a type of Messiah? Was there a virgin birth in the Old Testament? If the birth isn't a virgin one, what's the sign?

<sup>5</sup> This phrase, repeated twice by Yahweh, indicates there is an age of accountability for every person.

<sup>6</sup> Is the sign the speed with which Assyria conquers Syria and Israel?

<sup>7</sup> This is very, very bad news. Assyria is much worse than a Syria-Israel coalition.

<sup>8</sup> The Assyrians and Egyptians will fight a great battle near Judah with tens of thousands of soldiers. Yahweh wants Judah to remain neutral.

### *Biblical Worldview*

1. Judah is worried about Syria and Israel, but a nation will soon come that is much worse—Assyria!
2. God calls us to place our faith in the son born of the virgin, who is Immanuel.
3. For the virgin birth to be a sign, it must be miraculous. Otherwise it's not a sign.

*Notes*