

ISAIAH 7 vs 1

¹And it happened in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, **king of Judah** / so we are learning about the great grandson of Uzziah – the 3rd and fading generation after the great zenith of the kingdom of Judah,

that **Rezin the king of Syria** / an abbreviation for **Assyria**, and **Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel** / Israel was given all the promises first given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So, why are they in alliance with the neighbors against his brother? We're learning about 2 clueless fools in seats of power,



Rezin and Pekah... went up to Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.

² And it was told the **house of David**, saying, **Syria** is confederate / allied... **with Ephraim**.

And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind / Ahaz along with the people are as trees fiercely tossed and shaken and nearly uprooted by the storm winds blowing; obviously there is not much faith and confidence in the LORD God going on.

³ Then the LORD said to Isaiah, Go now to meet Ahaz / Matthew Henry writes: the orders and directions given to Isaiah to go and encourage Ahaz in his distress; not for his own sake (he deserved to hear nothing from God but words of terror), but solely because he was of the lineage of David,

Go meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub / his son's name means: *a remnant will return*,

at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field / so Isaiah is instructed to take his son and meet Ahaz at the only place in Jerusalem where the vital water supply can be cut off from the enemy while being secured for the city; the only underground source of water -- a place still known today, near where the temple was completely dismantled stone by stone just as Jesus foretold;



⁴ And say to him, Take heed, and be quiet;

fear **not**, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands / more clearly,

Calm down; don't be fearful of these smoldering twigs / the LORD wants Ahaz to shut up,

for the fierce anger of **Rezin with Syria**, and of **the son of Remaliah**.

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⁵ Because **Syria**, **Ephraim**, and **the son of Remaliah**, have taken evil counsel against you, saying,

⁶ **Let us go up against Judah**, and vex it / and annoy it -- the favorite pastime of trouble makers against the people of God in every generation (even today) they're not blazing; so, they'll soon fizzle out,

Yet their boasts continue...

and let us make a breach in it for us / these deluded fools have all their plans; they think they are going to divide the territory; it's the typical speech of the open border hoarders... and their followers,

and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal / probably some freakish lowlife; some obscure political flunky of the day -- most likely a compromiser installed to appease both nutty parties:

⁷ **Thus says the Lord GOD, It will not stand, nor will it come to pass** / Ahaz, it ain't gonna happen. Whatever stands against God doesn't stand too long.

⁸ **For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five years** / 65 years...

will Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people / because the LORD God already has plans for **Ephraim** who was given **all** the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... exceptional promises ordained by God for time's sake... unconditional, nationalistic promises... not eternal promises; and God intends **Ephraim's descendants** will fulfill them where He sends them... until the time of the Gentiles is fulfilled. They will not be heaped on the dunghill of history... they will not remain lost to history; they have work to do till the very end... when Messiah comes in power and great glory.

⁹ **And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,**

and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son / so the LORD knows who is who; and who is the biggest trouble maker and where they hide.

If you will not believe, surely you will not be established / God patiently works individually with all people, even the scummiest of the earth. He gives all the opportunity to be established in the promises of God instead of being tossed around by every wind. But remember in the NT we learn the demons at least believe, and they tremble. Mankind needs to move beyond belief; without faith, it is impossible to please God. Notice, Isaiah didn't need to say much, because God was going to drill this man's hard head.

¹⁰ **Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying** / so God speaks a second time directly to him. Wow! How many times DOES the Lord have to speak? I bet in eternity He only needs to speak once,

¹¹ **You ask a sign from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above** / in essence, God knew Ahaz discredited the prophet's voice, so He directly offers Ahaz the widest limits within him to choose some miracle, any miracle to affirm his confidence God was speaking to him.

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¹² **But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD** / Matthew Henry writes: Note, a secret disaffection to God is often disguised with the specious colors of respect to Him; and those who are resolved that they will not trust God, yet pretend that they will not tempt Him.

¹³ **And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David** / it is as if Isaiah the prophet bluntly jumps into the conversation... did Isaiah interrupt the LORD? Who knows? But it is as if Isaiah comes out ready to punch for God's honor and glory;

O house of David...

is it a small thing for you to weary men? / Isaiah was probably thinking... by your oppression and tyranny with which Ahaz was already odious and burdensome to mankind,

but will you weary my God also?

¹⁴ **Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign;**

Behold, a virgin will conceive, and bear a son,

and will call his name Immanuel / the greatest sign of God... reaching to the heights and depths of all creation. The Messiah would be introduced on a glorious errand, wrapped up in His glorious name meaning: **God with us.**

¹⁵ **Butter and honey he will eat, that he knows to refuse the evil, and choose the good.**

¹⁶ **For before the child knows to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that you abhor will be abandoned by both her kings** / in just a few short years this would happen.

¹⁷ **The LORD will bring upon you and your people, and upon your father's house, days that have not come since the day Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria** / when the king of Assyria comes to town it will be like nothing they had experienced.

¹⁸ **And when it happens,**

the LORD will whistle 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 / now speaking of these august political centers, pesky enemies as contemptible as a fly or a bee... is not a compliment. Notice the LORD clearly states: it ain't a roaring lion coming; but on His prompting the entire country would be taken.

¹⁹ **And they will come,**

and will rest all of them in the desolate valleys, and in the holes of the rocks, and upon all thorns, and upon all bushes / the invaders will find no difficulty seizing the country carelessly left by skittish citizens fleeing at the first moment's notice.

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20 On the same day, the LORD will shave with a razor that is hired / who is hired to do the job?

namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria,

the head, and the hair of the feet / the hired barber of Assyria will give a clean shave of the country from head to toe:



and it will also take the beard / which is very interesting. Isaiah says, when the barber is finished... the household of Israel where they go, they won't look the same as people usually seen in the middle east. When their careless destruction comes, it will be sudden and swift.



21 And it will happen in that day, that a man will feed a young cow, and two sheep / where they previously had flocks and herds; the cattle will be decimated;

22 And it will happen, for the abundance of milk that they will give... he will eat butter:

for butter and honey will everyone eat that is left in the land / but realize, there will be more than an abundance of milk, and butter and honey... because there will be so few left in the land.

23 And it will happen in that day,

that every place where there was once a thousand vines for a thousand pieces of silver / this speaks to the annual commerce and exchange, the renting and planting of prosperous landlords and tenants in affluent times,

it will even be for briers and thorns / the result of failed economic policies ended with exchanging tools of cultivation for implements of war... which only leads to the destruction of any nation.

24 With arrows and with bows will men come there; as a result, all the land will become briers and thorns.

25 And on all hills that will be dug by the wild boars, there will not come fear of briers and thorns / wild animals aren't bothered by or fearful of prickly briers and thorns:

but it will be for the sending forth of oxen, and for the treading of lesser cattle / due to the absence and neglect and land left uncultivated, there will be nobody to bother all the lumbering oxen, cows and sheep; along with cats and dogs... as well as all the gophers too, they all will enjoy freely roaming the vacated promised land.

...all because brothers didn't know how to be brotherly to one another... and cousins didn't know how to be good relatives to each other.

Obviously and quite tragically, the LORD God who first created all things good... He was lost in the mix... leaving only a disastrous mess made by mankind... still evident today in our genius 21st century society.