Isaiah Week 11



Isaiah 7: 14 (NIV)

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Question

Who is this prophecy about?

Isaiah 7: 15 (NIV)

He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,

Question

What does this mean?

Isaiah 7: 15 (NIV)

He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,

Isaiah 7: 16 (NIV)

for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Question

Do you remember who the two kings were?

Isaiah 7: 1 (NIV)

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

Isaiah 7: 2 (NIV)

Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

Isaiah 7: 17 (NIV)

The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah – he will bring the king of Assyria."

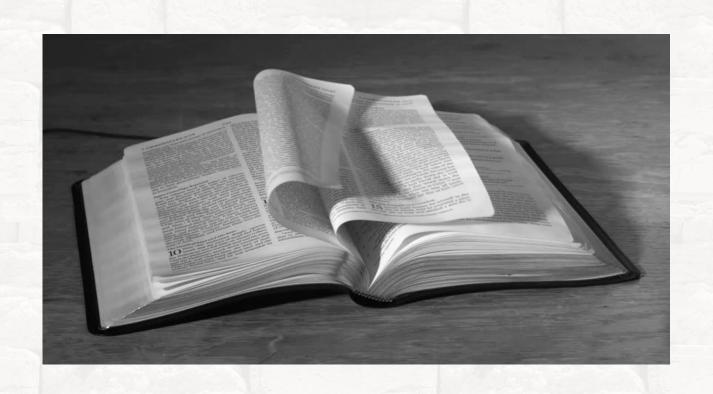
Isaiah 7: 18-19 (NIV)

In that day the Lord will whistle for flies from the Nile delta in Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thornbushes and at all the water holes.

Isaiah 7: 20-21 (NIV)

In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the Euphrates River – the king of Assyria – to shave your head and private parts, and to cut off your beard also. In that day, a person will keep alive a young cow and two goats.

Please turn to: 2 Samuel 10: 4-5



2 Samuel 10: 4-5 (NIV)

So Hanun seized David's envoys, shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks, and sent them away.

2 Samuel 10: 4-5 (NIV)

When David was told about this, he sent messengers to meet the men, for they were greatly humiliated. The king said, "Stay at Jericho till your beards have grown, and then come back.".

Isaiah 7: 24-25 (NIV)

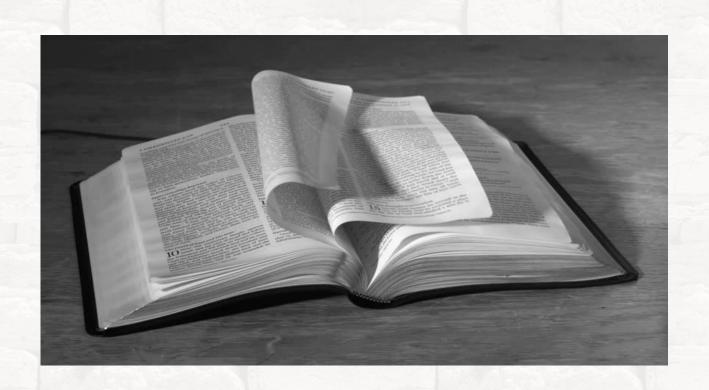
Hunters will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briers and thorns. As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briers and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.

Question

Do you remember what God did regarding this judgment He is calling down on Judah?

Please turn to:

2 Kings 16: 5, 7-9



2 Kings 16: 5 (NIV)

Then Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem and besieged Ahaz, but they could not overpower him.

2 Kings 16: 7-9 (NIV)

Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, "I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me."

2 Kings 16: 7-9 (NIV)

And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria.

2 Kings 16: 7-9 (NIV)

The king of Assyria complied by attacking Damascus and capturing it. He deported its inhabitants to Kir and put Rezin to death.

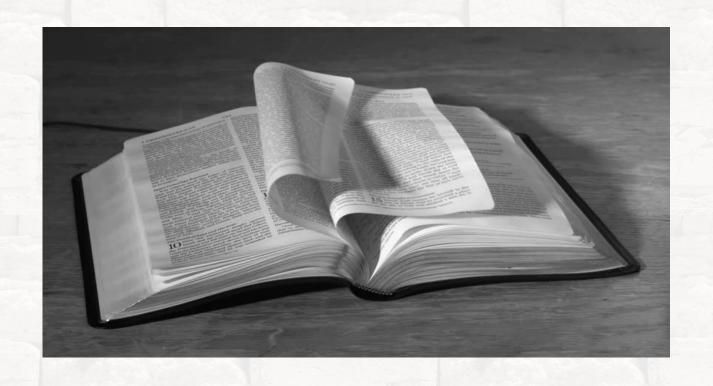
Isaiah 7: 1 (NIV)

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.



Please turn to:

2 Kings 18: 13 - 2 Kings 19: 37



In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me."

The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace.

At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the Lord, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came up to Jerusalem and stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field.

They called for the king; and Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went out to them.

The field commander said to them, "Tell Hezekiah:

"This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: On what are you basing this confidence of yours? You say you have the counsel and the might for war — but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me?

Look, I know you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces the hand of anyone who leans on it! Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who depend on him. But if you say to me, "We are depending on the Lord our God" -

isn't he the one whose high places and altars Hezekiah removed, saying to Judah and Jerusalem, "You must worship before this altar in Jerusalem"? "'Come now, make a bargain with my master, the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses — if you can put riders on them!

How can you repulse one officer of the least of my master's officials, even though you are depending on Egypt for chariots and horsemen? Furthermore, have I come to attack and destroy this place without word from the Lord? The Lord himself told me to march against this country and destroy it."

Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah, and Shebna and Joah said to the field commander, "Please speak to your servants in Aramaic, since we understand it. Don't speak to us in Hebrew in the hearing of the people on the wall."

But the commander replied, "Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the people sitting on the wall who, like you, will have to eat their own excrement and drink their own urine?"

Then the commander stood and called out in Hebrew, "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! This is what the king says: Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you from my hand.

Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.' "Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me.

Then each of you will eat fruit from your own vine and fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, 32 until I come and take you to a land like your own - a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Choose life and not death!

"Do not listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, 'The Lord will deliver us.' Has the god of any nation ever delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand?

Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?"

But the people remained silent and said nothing in reply, because the king had commanded, "Do not answer him."

Then Eliakim son of Hilkiah the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph the recorder went to Hezekiah, with their clothes torn, and told him what the field commander had said.

When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the Lord. He sent Eliakim the palace administrator, Shebna the secretary and the leading priests, all wearing sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.

They told him, "This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no strength to deliver them. It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God

those words with which the underlings of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me. Listen! When he hears a certain report, I will make him want to return to his own country, and there I will have him cut down with the sword."

When the field commander heard that the king of Assyria had left Lachish, he withdrew and found the king fighting against Libnah. Now Sennacherib received a report that Tirhakah, the king of Cush, was marching out to fight against him. So he again sent messengers to Hezekiah with this word:

Say to Hezekiah king of Judah: Do not let the god you depend on deceive you when he says, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hands of the king of Assyria.' Surely you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the countries, destroying them completely. And will you be delivered?

Did the gods of the nations that were destroyed by my predecessors deliver them – the gods of Gozan, Harran, Rezeph and the people of Eden who were in Tel Assar? Where is the king of Hamath or the king of Arpad? Where are the kings of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah?"

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: "Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Question

What can we learn from Hezekiah's actions when faced with impossible odds?

Question

What impossible odds are you facing?

Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God."It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them,

for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God."

Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria. This is the word that the Lord has spoken against him: "Virgin Daughter Zion despises you and mocks you. Daughter Jerusalem tosses her head as you flee.

Who is it you have ridiculed and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride?

Against the Holy One of Israel! By your messengers you have ridiculed the Lord.

And you have said,

"With my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon.

I have cut down its tallest cedars,

the choicest of its junipers.

I have reached its remotest parts, the finest of its forests.

I have dug wells in foreign lands

and drunk the water there.

With the soles of my feet

I have dried up all the streams of Egypt."

"Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it;

now I have brought it to pass that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone.

Their people, drained of power, are dismayed and put to shame.

They are like plants in the field, like tender green shoots, like grass sprouting on the roof, scorched before it grows up.

"But I know where you are and when you come and go and how you rage against me.

Because you rage against me and because your insolence has reached my ears,

I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth and I will make you return by the way you came.'

"This will be the sign for you, Hezekiah: "This year you will eat what grows by itself,

and the second year what springs from that.

But in the third year sow and reap, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Once more a remnant of the kingdom of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above.

For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors.

"The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

"Therefore this is what the Lord says concerning the king of Assyria:

"He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here.

He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it.

By the way that he came he will return;

he will not enter this city, declares the Lord.

I will defend this city and save it,

for my sake and for the sake of David my servant."

That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning — there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

Isaiah 8: 1 (NIV)

The Lord said to me, "<u>Take a</u> <u>large scroll</u> and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz."

This scroll was something large enough to be hung up for everyone to see.

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

Quick to plunder.

Swift to the spoil.

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

God is against those who are against us who are for God

Isaiah 8: 2-3 (NIV)

So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me. Then I made love to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.

Question

Why do you think Isaiah took two witnesses and wrote down the name of his second son before he was even conceived?

When Syria and the Northern Kingdom of Ephraim was destroyed by the Assyrians the witnesses could testify that the prophecy was written months before it occurred.

Isaiah 8: 4 (NIV)

For before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria."

When Israel would go astray God would send them warnings through His Prophets. If the people heeded the warning, then God would bring them restoration.

If the people rejected the warning He would send them His discipline and punishment by allowing an enemy nation to attack.