

## The Assyrian Invasion Yesha'yahu 8:1-10

In my last post, we concluded the story in **The Sign of Immanuel ~ Part 3** in **Yesha'yahu 7:17-25**. We learned that despite the alliance with **Assyria**, the King of Assyria would invade Y'hudah. In this post, we learn more about **The Assyrian Invasion** in **Yesha'yahu 8:1-10**.

***<sup>1</sup> Adonai said to me [Yesha'yahu], "Take a large tablet, and write on it in easily readable letters; 'Maher shalal, hash baz [the spoil hurries, the prey speeds along].'"***

The significance of the large size of the tablet may merely be that the writing was to be prominent and clear. The inscription means that an invasion was imminent.

***<sup>2</sup> I had it witnessed for me by reliable witnesses - Uriyah the cohen and Z'kharyahu the son of Y'verekhyahu.***

The presence of witnesses indicates that the writing of this prophecy had the force of a legal document. If the prophecy did not come true, then these two witnesses could attest to its falsity. If it did come true, they could proclaim that it was written before, and not after, the fact.

***<sup>3</sup> Then I had sexual relations with my wife; she became pregnant and gave birth to a son; and Adonai said to me, "Name him Maher Shalal Hash Baz;***

Other English translations indicate that **Yesha'yahu's** wife was herself a prophetess. The title "*prophetess*" is never used just to designate the wife of a prophet but consistently for a female prophet. While we need not doubt that this prophetess was **Yesha'yahu's** wife, she must also be regarded as a woman who functioned prophetically in her own right.

The first fulfillment of the Immanuel prophecy may well relate to the birth of **Maher Shalal Hash Baz** recorded here.

***<sup>4</sup> because before the child knows how to cry, 'Abba!' and 'Eema!', the riches of Dammesek and the spoil of Shomron will be carried off and given to the king of Ashur."***

Before the child could say "*Daddy*" or "*Mommy*," the invasion of **Ashur** into **Isra'el** would take place.

***<sup>5</sup> Adonai went on speaking and said more to me: <sup>6</sup> "Since this people has rejected the gently flowing waters from Shilo'ach and takes joy in Retzin and the son of Remalyah;***

**Hezekiah's** tunnel had not yet been constructed at this time. The waters flowed from a spring on the side of Mount Moriah into a tranquil pool. It was to this pool that **Yeshua** sent a man born blind to regain his sight (John 9).

***<sup>7</sup> now Adonai will bring upon them the mighty floodwaters of the [Euphrates] River — that is, the king of Ashur and his power. It will rise above all its channels and overflow all its banks.***

The mighty rushing waters of the **Euphrates** represent the **Assyrian** king and thus **Assyrian** might. By aligning with **Ashur** to help him against the Syro-Ephraimite alliance, **Achaz** was choosing a foreign nation rather than God.

***<sup>8</sup> It will sweep through Y'hudah, flooding everything and passing on. It will reach even up to the***

*neck, and its outspread wings will fill the whole expanse of the land.” God is with us! [Hebrew: 'immanu El]*

The waters that represent **Ashur** will come up to **Y'hudah's** neck. They will not be drowned, but they will find themselves paying annual tribute. On occasion, the **Assyrian** army will threaten their independent existence.

*<sup>9</sup> You may make an uproar, peoples; but you will be shattered. Listen, all of you from distant lands: arm yourselves, but you will be shattered; yes, arm yourselves, but you will be shattered; <sup>10</sup> devise a plan, but it will come to nothing; say anything you like, but it won't happen; because God is with us [Hebrew: 'immanu El]. ~ Yesha'yahu 8:1-10 (CJB)*

It was a common strategy for the **Assyrians** to claim that the deities of their rebellious vassals had abandoned them because they had broken the oaths that had secured their loyalty to the **Assyrians**. However, **Ashur** will not completely subjugate **Y'hudah**. After all, God was still with them.

In my next blog, we learn of the response to **The Prophetic Message** in **Yesha'yahu 8:11-23**.