

## The Sign of Immanuel ~ Part 2 -Yesha'yahu 7:7-12

In my last post, we looked at **The Sign of Immanuel ~ Part 1** in **Yesha'yahu 7:1-6**. We learned that **Aram** and **Isra'el** had formed an alliance and were coming to the south to conquer **Y'hudah**. In this post, we continue the story in **The Sign of Immanuel ~ Part 2** in **Yesha'yahu 7:7-12**.

**Yesha'yahu** said to King **Achaz**:

*<sup>7</sup> "This is what Adonai Elohim says: 'It won't occur, it won't happen. <sup>8</sup> For the head of Aram is Dammesek and the head of Dammesek Retzin. In sixty-five years Efrayim will be broken and will cease to be a people.*

The reference to 65 years is puzzling. If this prophecy is dated to 735 BCE or thereabouts, then it would point to approximately 670 BCE, but Assyria soundly defeated the northern kingdom in 722 BCE. Of course, that is "within 65 years," but perhaps the reference is to some unknown event among the survivors of the northern kingdom around 670 BCE. It is also possible that the deportations of Israelites and the importation of foreigners into their former region happened around that time.

*<sup>9</sup> The head of Efrayim is Shomron, and the head of Shomron is the son of Remalyah. Without firm faith, you will not be firmly established.'*

The challenge that the prophecy presented to **Achaz** was that he should trust God and not Assyria as he faced a threat from **Retzin** and **Pekach**. Their confederacy was not going to be successful.

We know what God says always comes to pass. Sha'ul writes: *Moreover, my God will fill every need of yours according to his glorious wealth, in union with the Messiah Yeshua.* ~ Philippians 4:19 (CJB) We can either believe that or reject it. If we reject it, His promise still stands - but we'll go through all kinds of unnecessary tension. Yeshua said He's coming back for us (John 14:3). Even if you don't believe that He's still coming back, but if you don't believe it when you look at the situation of the world today, you'll be filled with fear. It's far better to rest in the promises of God.

*<sup>10</sup> Adonai spoke again to Achaz; he said, <sup>11</sup> 'Ask Adonai your God to give you a sign. Ask it anywhere, from the depths of Sh'ol to the heights above.'*

There are a number of cases of signs being given by God in the Tanakh. The most similar examples are found in 1 Samuel 2:34 and 2 Kings 19:29. In these instances, the sign relates to the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy. The purpose of this sign in our text was to give **Achaz** even more reason to have confidence in God rather than **Assyria** to rescue him from **Retzin** and **Pekach**.

*<sup>12</sup> But Achaz answered, 'I won't ask, I won't test Adonai.'"* ~ Isaiah 7:7-12 (CJB)

Although **Achaz's** response sounds holy, in reality, it was hypocrisy because, in 2 Kings 16, we read that **Achaz** had previously taken a journey to **Assyria** to make his peace pact with the **Assyrians**. Because he sought the king of the **Assyrians**, he didn't think he needed a sign from the King of the universe.

In my next blog, we will conclude our exploration of **The Sign of Immanuel ~ Part 3** in **Yesha'yahu 7:13-25**.