

Isaiah 6-39 God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	Ch 6-12 God will rule with goodness and power, replacing human kings	Ch 13-27 God will destroy evil and dismantle this creation	Ch 28-35 God will instantly reverse bad and sad situations to become happy and glad	Ch 36-39 Human kings cannot enable long-term happiness
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Isaiah 7:1-8:10 (NIVUK)

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

² Now the house of David was told, ‘Aram has allied itself with^b Ephraim’; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

³ Then the LORD said to Isaiah, ‘Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub,^c to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. ⁴ Say to him, “Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smouldering stubs of firewood – because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, ⁶ ‘Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.’ ⁷ Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“‘It will not take place,
it will not happen,
⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

⁹ The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.”’

^{aa} i.e. Syria

^b Or *has set up camp in*

^c *Shear-Jashub means a remnant will return*

Sunday 31 August 2025

God is in charge of all human kings and wars (7:1-8:10)

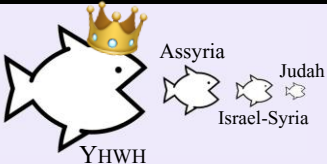
- Judah threatened by Israel-Syria



- ‘Don’t worry about them!’

- Promise: ‘I will destroy Israel and Syria’

(‘If you won’t believe, you won’t have belief’)

<p>Isaiah 6-12</p> <p>God will rule with goodness and power, replacing human kings</p>	<p><u>6:1-13</u></p> <p>King God is a total boss!</p>	<p><u>7:1-8:10</u></p> <p>Kings:</p> 	<p><u>8:11-22</u></p> <p>Listen to King God, or else!</p>	<p><u>9:1-7</u></p> <p>A promised God-King who ends war</p>
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- ‘Ask me for a sign’

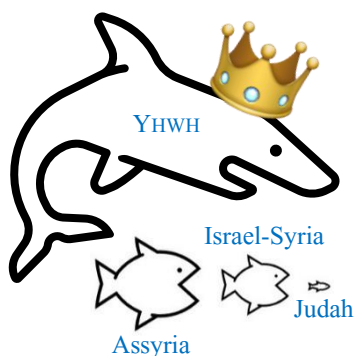
¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ ‘Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.’

- ‘No!’

¹² But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.’

- Sign #1 Boy Immanuel

¹³ Then Isaiah said, ‘Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you^d a sign: the virgin^e will conceive and give birth to a son, and^f will call him Immanuel.^g ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.’



- Four more promises of Israel-Syria’s defeat

¹⁸ In that day the LORD will whistle for flies from the Nile delta in Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. ¹⁹ They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thorn-bushes and at all the water holes.

²⁰ In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the River Euphrates – the king of Assyria – to shave your heads and private parts, and to cut off your beards also.

²¹ In that day, a person will keep alive a young cow and two goats. ²² And because of the abundance of the milk they give, there will be curds to eat. All who remain in the land will eat curds and honey.

^d The Hebrew is plural

^e Or young woman

^f Masoretic Text; Dead Sea son, and he or son, and they

^g Immanuel means God with us

<u>9:8-10:4</u> God judges the terrible leaders of Israel	<u>10:5-34</u> God judges the arrogant King of Assyria	<u>11:1-10</u> A promised God-King who brings safety and harmony	<u>11:11-12:6</u> God promises a 2 nd Exodus
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²³ In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels,^h there will be only briars and thorns. ²⁴ Hunters will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briars and thorns. ²⁵ As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briars and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.

8 The LORD said to me, ‘Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.’ⁱ ² So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.’

- Sign #2 Boy ‘Victor Swift’

⁵ The LORD spoke to me again:

⁶ ‘Because this people has rejected

the gently flowing waters of Shiloah
and rejoices over Rezin

and the son of Remaliah,

⁷ therefore the Lord is about to bring against them

the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates –
the king of Assyria with all his pomp.

It will overflow all its channels,

run over all its banks

⁸ and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it,

passing through it and reaching up to the neck.

Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land,

Immanuel!’^j

- Another promise of Israel-
Syria’s defeat

- Assyria will threaten Judah
too!

^h That is, about 12 kilograms

^j Immanuel means *God with us*

ⁱ Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz means *quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil*; also in verse 3

<u>Isaiah 1-5</u> Introduction How can one be spared judgement and live happily ever after?	<u>Isaiah 6-39</u> New Creation God will rule over a new, perfect and eternal creation	<u>Isaiah 40-55</u> New relationship God will restore his people from exile to a permanent relationship	<u>Isaiah 56-66</u> Who God will choose the humble and reject the proud
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- Judah could even taunt their enemies!

⁹ Raise the war cry, ^k you nations, and be shattered!

Listen, all you distant lands.

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

Prepare for battle, and be shattered!

¹⁰ Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;

propose your plan, but it will not stand,

for God is with us^l.

For reflection

Isaiah 7:1-8:10 show God's complete control over human kingdoms and wars.

1. [Diagnostic] To what extent do you feel God is actually in charge over human leaders and international conflicts?

2. [Devotional] How does Isaiah 7:1-8:10 help you:

a. To see God as in charge now?

b. To look forward to his perfect and eternal rule in eternal life?
[in line with Isaiah's book purpose]

3. [Devotional] Are there parts of Isaiah 7:1-8:10 that struck you?
Are there parts that are difficult for you to hear?

Next Sunday (7 September): Isaiah 8:11-10:4 | Lord's Supper & Members' meeting | Non-match day

^k Or *Do your worst*

^l Hebrew *Immanuel*