

B. The Historic Background

This passage is set against the impending war between Judah and Israel. Previously allied, the alliance was ended by Jotham for reasons of his own. The Israelites assumed Judah was going to join with the Assyrian armies rather than fight against them as they had done in the former alliance. Although this does not seem to have been the case, the Israelites defeated Judah (about 735) and seem to have forced Jotham to promote Ahaz to the kingship as co-regent. Apparently they thought they could control Ahaz and he would re-ally himself with them. But this was not to be the case. In fact, Ahaz immediately sought to make himself a servant of Assyria and entered into a pact with the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser III. When the Israelite leaders heard this, Pekah, their leader along with Rezin, king of Syria, decided to invade Judah and kill Ahaz, replacing him with a man more suited to their purpose. Hearing of this Ahaz called for help from the Assyrians. In this chapter we find him waiting for the help while the prophet Isaiah reproves him for not calling upon the Lord. It must be remembered that Ahaz was a wicked and unscrupulous king who cared nothing for Jehovah. His court had become corrupt and the land of Judaea had fallen into virtual idolatry to the Assyrian gods, and others.

At the time our account begins Judah is filled with fright. It is an ideal moment to return to the Lord. But the king will have no part of it and his hardness and unbelief become representative of wicked men who will not make God their trust.

C. The Predictions of Isaiah 7

There are plenty of them and we will try to lump them together so that while we do not spend hours on any one we can have an overview of all.

1. The first prediction is implicit in vs. 3 in the appearance of Shearjashub, Isaiah's son. His name predicts the return of the remnant...what will come back after a captivity. This particular notation does