**Isaiah**

**The Vision**

**The Revelation within Isaiah**

**Chapters 8, 9**

**Chapter 8 NKJV**

The Coming Assyrian Invasion against Syria and Israel

1 Moreover the Lord said to me, “Take a large scroll, and write on it with a man’s pen concerning [a]***Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz***. 2 And I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.” [Deut. 19:15]

3 Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, “Call his **name *Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz* [Quickly – to the plunder! Hurry – to the loot]** ; 4 for before the child shall have knowledge to cry ‘My father’ and ‘My mother,’ the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria.”

The Lord told Isaiah to write his prophecy for all to see and read. This prophecy continues from Isaiah 7. Two kings would rise up against *King Ahaz*, the king of Judah: *King Rezin,* the king of the northern kingdom of Israel, and *King Pekah*, the King of Syria. The kings threatened to invade Judah if King Ahaz did not agree to surrender. God had told Ahaz, the king of Judah, that he would not be overthrown by the combined forces of Syria and Israel. Israel had joined forces with Syria to form a conspiracy against Judah. God had warned Judah that the Assyrians would bring destruction, but a remnant would be left in the land.

“1 During the reign of Ahaz, the son of Jotham and grandson of Uzziah, two kings launched an attack against Jerusalem: Rezin, the king of Syria, and Pekah, the son of Remaliah, the king of Israel. But they failed to conquer it. [II Kings 16:5; II Chronicles 28:5-6] 2 When the royal court was told that Syria had formed an alliance with the northern kingdom of Israel, the heart of King Ahaz and all his people trembled with fear, like trees swaying in the wind.” Isaiah 7:1-2 TPT

“6 They are saying, “We will attack Judah and cut off Jerusalem—we will terrorize and conquer it for ourselves and install the son of Tabeel as king!”’”

7 Now hear what the Lord Yahweh says: “They will not succeed—it will never happen! 8 …Sixty-five years from now the northern kingdom of Israel will be shattered, with nothing left of it.” Isaiah 7:7,8 TPT

Within 65 years Israel will no longer be a people and the Lord gave Isaiah a sign to explain on how soon the defeat of Syria and Israel will come. In this chapter, the Lord reveals the period of time, before Isaiah’s child can say, “my father or mother”, for the invasion of Assyria upon Syria and Israel. When the Assyrians came, plunder and destruction would also come and with haste.

King Ahaz did not choose to take heed to God words. God said in Isaiah 7:9, “If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not be able to stand at all!” Due to fear and pride, King Ahaz chose to seek help from the King of Assyria, even using the gold of the temple to buy his favor [II Kings 16:7-8]. Isaiah knew that King Ahaz was putting his trust in an ungodly alliance instead of placing his trust in God.

“The prophet spoke for God as he challenged Ahaz to believe that if only the people would turn to him, God would deliver Judah out of their crisis. He called upon Ahaz to ask for a sign from God as a guarantee that God’s assistance would be given [Isaiah 7:11-22]. Ahaz refused. When Ahaz refused to ask for a sign he disobeyed God and thus rejected God. Assyria, to whom Ahaz had turned for help, would both destroy Ephraim (the Northern Kingdom of Israel) and bring vast affliction also upon Judah.” Summary from *The Gospel in Isaiah*, Gilbert L. Guffin, pp. 62-64.

5 The Lord also spoke to me again, saying:

6 “Inasmuch as these people refused

The waters of Shiloah that flow softly,

And rejoice in **Rezin** [The king of Syria], and in Remaliah’s son [**Pekah**, the king of Israel].

7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord brings up over them

The waters of the River, strong and mighty—

The king of Assyria and all his glory;

He will go up over all his channels

And go over all his banks.

8 He will pass through Judah,

He will overflow and pass over,

He will reach up to the neck;

And the stretching out of his wings

Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel. [“God with us” & THIS LAND BELONGS TO THE LORD GOD AND TO THE COMING MESSIAH]

In Isaiah 8:6, “Inasmuch as these people refused the waters of Shiloah that flow softly”, some may see this as a possible reference to one of the streams of the Gihon Spring, it is more likely a metaphor for the loving care, presence, and blessing of the Lord that flowed to them via David’s monarchy. The rejected blessing contrasts with the overflowing flood of the Euphrates (Assyria) that is about to sweep over the land. Because Euphrates is a figure of speech for Assyria, Shiloah becomes a figure of speech for God’s loving care; a relational God seeks relations with His people. He longed to be their fountain of peace, flowing within them, like a gentle stream.”

Isaiah reminds the people that the Assyrians will stretch out their wings, figuratively, to cover the entire land of Judah, covering them with destruction. Foot notes from the TPT Chapter 8.

“These people refused the waters of Shiloah that flow softy: The people of the northern kingdom of Israel did not appreciate their humble streams (the waters of Shiloah). Instead, they rejoiced in wicked leaders [ungodly alliances]. So, God will give them a different king of river -the waters of the River, strong and mighty. The little stream of Shiloah sprung from Mt. Zion on the southwesterly side of Jerusalem. It flowed as softly as oil without any murmur. Jerusalem’s existence and continuation depended on it. (Bultema)

The capital of the Assyrian Empire was Nineveh, the city of Nineveh was founded on a great river: the Tigris. The Assyrian Empire was also centered across another mighty river: the Euphrates. The whole land of Israel simply did not have a river like the Euphrates or the Tigris. God is using the difference between the small, humble, yet adequate waters of Israel and the mighty, yet uncontrolled rivers of Assyria to make a point. It is as if God is saying, “You don’t’ like what I have given you? You persist in rejecting what I give you? Then I will give you something different, but you won’t like it either.”

“The small and gentle waters should be more highly valued by us than the large and rapid rivers of all the nations, and we ought not to envy the great power of the ungodly.” (Calvin)

“He will go up over all his channels and go over all his banks: Like a large river in a flood, the Assyrian army will not stay confined to its banks. Instead, they will flow over their attack on Israel and Syria, and flood Judah with violence and destruction (He will pass through Judah).

“He will reach up to the neck: Assyria would completely conquer the northern nation of Israel. The ten northern tribes would cease to be a nation after the Assyrians conquered them. But the Assyrians would not conquer the southern nation of Judah. They would “flood” them (fill the breadth of Your land), and reach up to the neck, but not over their heads. Judah would survive the Assyrian invasion but suffer much destruction from the Assyrians.” Taken from Enduring Word Commentary @ https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/isaiah-8/

9 “Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces!

Give ear, all you from far countries.

Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces;

Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces.

10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing;

Speak the word, but it will not stand,

For God is with us.”

II Kings 18:13 declares, “And in the 14th year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all fortified cities of Judah and took them. (See: II Kings 18-20)

“Hezekiah, was able to keep the king of Assyria away from Jerusalem, and barely able to survive, by buying his favor with riches from the temple – even stripping god from the temple doors to appease the pagan king!”

“The sacred history assures us that these things were fulfilled…for Assyrians, whom the Jews called to their assistance, destroyed them. This was the punishment of their distrust; and we see in it a striking instance of the wicked greediness of men, who cannot be satisfied with the promise and assistance of God.” (Calvin)

“The victims of this Assyrian invasion (Syria, Israel and Judah) could prepare for the invasion all they wanted (gird yourselves). But all their preparation would not protect them (but be broken in pieces). They could take counsel together, but it will come to nothing. All their plans and words and ideas will not stand, for God is with us.” Taken from Enduring Word Commentary @ https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/isaiah-8/

Fear God, Heed His Word

11 For the Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying:

**12 “Do not say, ‘A conspiracy,’**

**Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy,**

**Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.**

**13 The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow;**

**Let Him be your fear,**

**And let Him be your dread.**

14 He will be as a sanctuary,

But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense

To both the houses of Israel,

As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

15 And many among them shall stumble;

They shall fall and be broken,

Be snared and taken.”

“For those who trust Him, the Lord will be as a sanctuary. But those who do not, He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. Instead of finding protection from the Lord, they will ‘trip’ over Him, falling to destruction.” Taken from Enduring Word Commentary @ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/isaiah-8/>

 **The Rock of Offense**

Isaiah’s numerous phrases describe the Jews’ reaction to the Messiah, including the prediction in v. 14 that He would be a ‘stone of stumbling’, FULFILLED in Luke 20:17-18; Romans 9:32; 11:11; I Peter 2:8; a ‘rock of offense’ , FULFILLED through Christ in Romans 9:33; I Peter 2:7-8, and a ‘snare’ to those who resist His ministry in Jerusalem. Christ was received among the Gentiles, especially in the Galilean regions of Israel, but encountered extreme resistance from the Jews in Jerusalem, the religious center of the nation. Many religious Jews in Christ’s day did stumble and fall because they rejected the Messiah. (Matthew 21:33-45) Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1043.

**Luke 2:34**

“34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against.”

**Psalm 2:12**

“12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

**I Peter 2:6-10**

“6 Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture,

“Behold, I lay in Zion

A chief cornerstone, elect, precious,

And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient,

“The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone,”

8 and

“A stone of stumbling

And a rock of offense.”

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

 [Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Mark 2:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; I Peter 2:6]

16 Bind up the testimony,

Seal the law among my disciples.

17 **And I will wait on the Lord,**

Who ***hides His face from the house of Jacob***; [Numbers 6:22-27]

**And I will hope in Him.**

18 ***Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me!***

***We are for signs and wonders in Israel***

***From the Lord of hosts,***

***Who dwells in Mount Zion.*** [Hebrews 2:11-13]

19 And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living? 20 To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

21 They will pass through it hard-pressed and hungry; and it shall happen, when they are hungry, that they will be enraged and curse their king and their God and look upward. 22 Then they will look to the earth, and see trouble and darkness, gloom of anguish; and they will be driven into darkness.

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14 NKJV**

“9 “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

**Revelation 22:14-15 NKJV**

“14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.”

“Don’t try and escape from your enemies by putting your trust in an even bigger enemy.” Come with Me Through Isaiah, David Pawson, p. 58

**Chapter 9 NKJV**

The Government of the Promised Son

1 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed,

As when at first He lightly esteemed

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

And afterward more heavily oppressed her,

By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,

In Galilee of the Gentiles.

2 The people who walked in darkness [Isaiah 8:20; Psalm 82:5; 107:10]

Have seen a great light; [Isa. 55:8; Eph. 5:8]

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined. [Hebrews 2:10; Psalm 23]

“This was the region that first went into captivity during the Assyrian invasion in 734-733 BC. Yet this land was the first to enjoy the blessings of the ministry of Jesus, for His works were done among them. Isaiah is prophesying the ministry of Jesus that would reverse the curse over that region. In the place where devastation had robbed hope, He will appear. He chooses the places in our lives where we have the most disgraced and shame, and there He shines His light. Our past failures become prophecies of a future victory.” TPT notes Chapter 9.

**Prophesy fulfilled: Jesus ministry began in Galilee. See Matthew 4:12-17; Luke 2:32**

 **The Light from Naphtali and Zebulun**

“Naphtali and Zebulun were two of Jacob’s sons (Gen. 30:8, 20). The land grant for Zebulun extended from the Sea of Galilee across the width of Israel to the Mediterranean Sea and included various seaports on the Mediterranean, which enhanced the tribe’s commerce with other nations. The land grant given to Naphtali was north of Zebulun’s territory. This entire area was considered the ‘Galilee of the Gentiles’ during the time of Christ. Much of Christ’s ministry and many of His miracles occurred within the land grant of these two tribes. Thus, Christ was the ‘great light’ seen by the people of this region. In Christ’s time, the Jews considered Galilee a spiritually dark region, as evidenced when Nathanael said, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46), and when the authorities said, “Search, and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet.” (John 7:52) Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1044.

3 You have multiplied the nation

And increased its joy; [Psalm 67:4; 119:162; 126; Acts 8:8]

They rejoice before You

According to the joy of harvest,

As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For You have broken the yoke of his burden [Luke 4:18-20; Isaiah 10:27]

And the staff of his shoulder,

The rod of his oppressor,

As in the day of Midian. [Gen. 25:2, 4; Ex. 2:15; Judges 6]

5 For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle,

And garments rolled in blood,

Will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

**6 For unto us a Child is born,**

**Unto us a Son is given;**

**And the government will be upon His shoulder.**

**And His name will be called**

**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**7 Of the increase of His government and peace**

**There will be no end,**

**Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,**

**To order it and establish it with judgment and justice**

**From that time forward, even forever.**

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.**

 **The Great Prophecy of the Messiah**

“For the government to be ‘upon His shoulder’, this son must be born a king of Israel. When Christ rules on earth, He is called “King of Kings and Lord of Lords”. Rev. 19:16

The Hebrew word for secret is (pil’iy), which is a similar form of the Hebrew word for ***wonderful*** (pele’) in this passage. The word is rendered as ***marvelous*** in Psalms 118:23; 139:14; and translated as ***miracles*** in Judges 6:13. This word implies that the Messiah’s name would be linked with miracles.

The second name of the Messiah is ***Counselor***, which refers to a person capable of standing before kings and leaders to give advice or wisdom. Christ’s wisdom stunned even His opponents, who said, “Never man spake like this man.” (John 7:46).

The Messiah is also called “***The mighty God***” and “***The Everlasting Father***”. Christ said that those who saw Him saw the Father and that He and His Father were one. (John 10:30; 14:9)

The Messiah is also identified as “***The Prince of Peace***.” Christ will cause all wars to cease during His thousand-year reign from Jerusalem. (Revelation 20:1-4).

Isaiah 9:7 is a significant prediction that Christ will sit on the throne of David and His Kingdom shall never end. (Psalm 145:13; Daniel 4:3; 7:27; II Peter 1:11) Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, chapter 9.

The Punishment of Samaria – These verses below are as strong rebuke and warning of the destruction coming to Jerusalem and Judah for their lack of repentance, especially to the prophets who were teaching lies.

8 The Lord sent a word against Jacob,

And it has fallen on Israel.

9 All the people will know—

Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria—

Who say in pride and arrogance of heart:

10 “The bricks have fallen down,

But we will rebuild with hewn stones;

The sycamores are cut down,

But we will replace them with cedars.”

11 Therefore the Lord shall set up

The adversaries of Rezin against him,

And spur his enemies on,

12 The Syrians before and the Philistines behind;

And they shall devour Israel with an open mouth.

For all this His anger is not turned away,

But His hand is stretched out still.

13 For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them,

Nor do they seek the Lord of hosts.

14 Therefore the Lord will cut off head and tail from Israel,

Palm branch and bulrush in one day.

15 The elder and honorable, he is the head;

The prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail.

16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err,

And those who are led by them are destroyed.

17 Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men,

Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows;

For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer,

And every mouth speaks folly.

For all this His anger is not turned away,

But His hand is stretched out still.

18 For wickedness burns as the fire;

It shall devour the briers and thorns,

And kindle in the thickets of the forest;

They shall mount up like rising smoke.

19 Through the wrath of the Lord of hosts

The land is burned up,

And the people shall be as fuel for the fire;

No man shall spare his brother.

20 And he shall snatch on the right hand

And be hungry;

He shall devour on the left hand

And not be satisfied;

Every man shall eat the flesh of his own arm. [civil war; turning against one another; Jer. 19:9

21 Manasseh shall devour Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh; [II Chron. 28:6-15]

Together they shall be against Judah.

For all this His anger is not turned away,

But His hand is stretched out still.

“Those are ripening apace for ruin, whose hearts are unhumbled under humbling providences. For that which God designs, in smiting us, is, to turn us to himself; and if this point be not gained by lesser judgments, greater may be expected. The leaders of the people misled them. We have reason to be afraid of those that speak well of us, when we do ill. Wickedness was universal, all were infected with it. They shall be in trouble and see no way out; and when men's ways displease the Lord, he makes even their friends to be at war with them. God would take away those they thought to have help from. Their rulers were the head. Their false prophets were the tail and the rush, the most despicable. In these civil contests, men preyed on near relations who were as their own flesh. *The people turn not to Him who smites them, therefore he continues to smite: for when God judges, he will overcome; and the proudest, stoutest sinner shall either bend or break*.” Matthew Henry’s Bible Commentary (concise) https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=mhc&b=23&c=9

**Chapter 8 TPT**

A Son Becomes a Sign

8 The Lord Yahweh said to me, “Take a large tablet[a] and engrave upon it these words using the stylus of a man:[b] Quickly—to the Plunder! Hurry—to the Loot![c] 2 Then summon two reliable men, Uriah the priest[d] and Zechariah, son of Jeberechiah, to act as witnesses.”[e]

3 Then I slept with my wife, the prophetess;[f] she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. Then the Lord Yahweh told me, “You will name him Quickly—to the Plunder! Hurry—to the Loot! 4 For before the boy knows how to say ‘my father’ or ‘my mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and Samaria will be plundered and carried away by the king of Assyria!”

A Flood or a Peaceful Stream

5 The Lord Yahweh spoke to me again: 6 “Because these people have rejected the gentle flowing stream of my loving presence[g] and melt in fear[h] before Rezin and the son of Remaliah, 7 now, therefore, the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty, massive flood of the Euphrates. The king of Assyria and all his glory[i] will overflow on you like a river flooding its channels and running over all its banks! 8 It will flood into Judah, swirling over it, overflowing and reaching up to your neck, O Immanu El,[j] and spread out its wings[k] over your entire land!

9 “You will be broken,[l] O nations, and will be shattered.

 Listen, all you distant nations. Prepare for war,[m]

 though it will backfire on you!

 Prepare for war, yet you will be shattered!

10 Go ahead, hatch a plot, but it will be foiled!

 Go ahead, speak a word,

 but it will not stand, for God is with us!”[n]

A Snare or a Sanctuary

11 The Lord’s mighty hand rested on me, and he warned me[o] with these words not to act like[p] these people:

12 “Don’t believe their every conspiracy rumor. And don’t fear what they fear—don’t be moved or terrified. 13 Fear nothing and no one except Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies! Honor him as holy. Be in awe before him with deepest reverence![q] 14 He will become for you a holy sanctuary but for them a stone people trip over. He is a rock that causes the two houses of Israel to stumble—a trap[r] and a snare for the people of Jerusalem.[s] 15 Many will stumble and fall and be broken. Yes, they will be snared and taken away captive.”

Trust in the Hidden God

16 Now, tie up the scroll and preserve it as legal evidence. Seal my instructions for the future for my disciples. 17 I will wait for the Lord Yahweh, who hides his face[t] from the family of Jacob. And I will place all my hope in him!

18 Behold—here I stand, and the children whom the Lord Yahweh has given me are for signs and wonders[u] in Israel, sent from the Lord Almighty, Commander of Angel Armies, who is enthroned on Mount Zion![v]

Darkness or the Light of Dawn

19 Now, suppose someone says, “Consult mediums and spiritists who moan and mutter their incantations in their ritual pits; after all, isn’t it right for people to seek oracles from their gods[w] by asking the dead about the destiny of the living?”

20 You are to answer them: “Listen to the teaching and instruction of the Lord! If their speech does not line up with his word, they will have no light of dawn![x] 21 They will wander here and there, distressed and hungry. And when they are famished, they will be enraged and begin to curse their king and their God.[y] If they look to the heavens 22 or to the earth, they will find only despair and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into obscure darkness!”[z]

**Chapter 9 TPT**

A Son Is Born

9 No more gloom for those who are in distress! Although the Lord greatly humbled the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali,[a] he will one day bestow upon them great honor—from the Mediterranean eastward to the other side of the Jordan[b] and throughout the Galilee of the gentiles.

2 Those who walked in darkness[c]

 have seen a radiant light shining upon them.[d]

 They once lived in the shadows of death,

 but now a glorious light has dawned![e]

3 Lord, you have multiplied the nation

 and given them overwhelming joy!

 They are ecstatic in your presence

 and rejoice like those who bring in a great harvest[f]

 and those who divide up the spoils of victory![g]

4 For you have broken the chains[h]

 that have bound your people

 and lifted off the heavy bar across their shoulders,

 the rod the oppressor used against them.

 You have shattered all their bondage,[i]

 just as you did when Midian’s armies were defeated.

5 Every boot of marching troops

 and every uniform caked with blood

 will be burned as fuel for the fire.

The Wonderful One

6 A child has been born for us;

 a son has been given to us.[j]

 The responsibility of complete dominion

 will rest on his shoulders, and his name will be:

 The Wonderful One!

 The Extraordinary Strategist!

 The Mighty God![k]

 The Father of Eternity!

 The Prince[l] of Peace!

7 Great and vast is his dominion.[m]

 He will bring immeasurable peace and prosperity.[n]

 He will rule on David’s throne and over David’s kingdom

 to establish and uphold it by promoting justice and righteousness

 from this time forward and forevermore.

 The marvelous passion[o] that the Lord Yahweh,

 Commander of Angel Armies, has for his people

 will ensure that it is finished!

The Lord Judges Arrogance and Oppression

8 The Lord decreed a word against Jacob, and it brought calamity upon Israel.

9 And all the people of Ephraim and Samaria knew of it. Their hearts filled with pride and they arrogantly boasted, 10 “Our brick walls may have crumbled, but we will rebuild them with dressed stones. Invading armies may have cut down our sycamore trees, but we will plant cedars in their place!”[p]

11 So the Lord Yahweh stirred up their enemies and strengthened Rezin’s foes,[q] and they came against the people. 12 Syrians[r] on the east, Philistines on the west—they came with bared teeth[s] and devoured Israel. Yet despite all this, his anger did not subside, and his hand of judgment is poised to strike them again. 13 For the people did not repent and turn to the one who struck them or seek the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies.

Judgment Coming to the Leaders

14 In a single day, the Lord Yahweh cut off from Israel both head and tail, palm branch and reed. 15 The elders and dignitaries are the head, and the prophet who teaches lies is the tail. 16 The leaders have led them astray, and the citizens are left in confusion. 17 That is why the Lord did not show pity to the young people or have compassion on their orphans and widows. For everyone was godless and did evil and each mouth spewed out wickedness. Therefore, the Lord’s anger has not subsided, and his hand is poised to strike them again.

Israel’s Tribes Turn Against One Another

18 Surely wickedness burned like an out-of-control fire, consuming thorns and thistles. It set ablaze the thickets of the forest with flames swirling upward in columns of smoke. 19 The land was scorched[t] because of the anger of the Lord Yahweh, Commander of Angel Armies. The people themselves became fuel for the fire, and no one showed compassion toward another. 20 With their right hands they snatched what belonged to others yet remained hungry. With their left hands they stole food, yet they were starving[u] and even ate their own offspring![v] 21 Manasseh devoured Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, and together they turned against Judah.[w] Yet despite all this, the Lord’s anger has not subsided, and his hand is poised to strike them again.[x]

**Recommended Reading**: His Faces by Orna Grinman – otoomofet@gmail.com