

Isaiah 7:1-17

I. The Syro-Ephraimitic coalition (1-2).

- A. Syria and Israel gathered to oppose Assyria (742 BC).
- B. Tried to force Judah to join them.
 - 1. Perhaps because Ahaz followed the practices of Israel (2 Ki. 16:3).
 - a. Sacrificed to many gods.
 - b. Sacrificed his son to Molech.
 - 2. Military success (2 Chr. 28).
 - a. Man's interpretation.
 - b. God's interpretation (2 Chr. 28:5,19).
- C. Ahaz's response.
 - 1. Sacrificed to the gods of Syria.
 - 2. Treaty with Assyria.
 - a. At the cost of the temple treasury.
 - b. Tiglath-Pileser attacked Syria.
 - c. The problem became Hezekiah's.

II. The message of hope (3-9).

- A. Isaiah's son, Shear-Jashub.
 - 1. "A remnant shall return."
 - 2. Judah will not be extinguished.
- B. The enemy's threat.
 - 1. Divide up Judah.
 - 2. Replace Ahaz with Tabeel.
- C. Hope and warning.
 - 1. It won't happen.
 - 2. Stand firm in faith.

III. The sign (10-17).

- A. The sign offered.
 - 1. God knew Ahaz's faith was weak.
 - 2. Long range prophecies often come with short range signs.
- B. The sign refused.
 - 1. Outward piety (Dt. 6:16; cf. Mt. 4:7).
 - 2. Depending on Tiglath-Pileser.

C. A new sign.

1. The LORD's exasperation.
2. Addressed to all ("you" is plural).
3. Revolved around a child.
 - a. Unusual birth.
 - b. Associated with deliverance.
 - c. Characterized by the presence of God among men.
 - d. Living in a time of oppression.

D. Present confirmatory sign.

1. Invasion by Assyria.
2. God's punishment of Ahaz.