

**Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**  
**Bible Study Notes: Isaiah Chapter 8 & 9**

1/15/14

**Chapter 8 Study Notes**

**Isaiah and His Children as Signs - Verses 1-18**

The LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz." <sup>2</sup> So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> The LORD spoke to me again: <sup>6</sup> "Because this people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and rejoices over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, <sup>7</sup> 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 <sup>8</sup> 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" <sup>9</sup> Raise the war cry, <sup>[c]</sup> you nations, and be shattered! Listen, all you distant lands. Prepare for battle, and be shattered! Prepare for battle, and be shattered! <sup>10</sup> Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted; propose your plan, but it will not stand, for God is with us. <sup>11</sup> This is what the LORD says to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people: <sup>12</sup> "Do not call conspiracy everything this people calls a conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. <sup>13</sup> The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread. <sup>14</sup> He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. <sup>15</sup> Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured. <sup>16</sup> Bind up this testimony of warning and seal up God's instruction among my disciples. <sup>17</sup> I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the descendants of Jacob. I will put my trust in him. <sup>18</sup> Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.

**ISAIAH 8:1-4**

These verses predict the fall of Israel and Aram. Aram fell to Assyria in 732 B.C., and Israel followed in 722 B.C. Isaiah put his message on a large scroll in a public place. God was warning all his people.

**ISAIAH 8:6-8**

Because the people of Judah rejected God's kindness, choosing instead to seek help from other nations, God would punish them. We see two distinct attributes of God—his love and his wrath. To ignore his love and guidance results in sin and invites his wrath. We must recognize the consequences of our choices. God wants to protect us from bad choices, but he still gives us the freedom to make them.

**ISAIAH 8:7, 8**

The heart of the Assyrian Empire was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This flood is a poetic way of describing the overwhelming force of the Assyrian army.

**ISAIAH 8:11-15**

Isaiah, along with most of the prophets, was viewed as a traitor because he did not support Judah's national policies. He called the people to commit themselves first to God and then to the king. He even predicted the overthrow of the government.

**ISAIAH 8:16**

Because some people faithfully passed on these words from generation to generation, we have the book of Isaiah today. Each of us needs to accept the responsibility to pass on God's Word to our children and grandchildren, encouraging them to love the Bible, read it, and learn from it. Then they will faithfully pass it on to their children and grandchildren.

**ISAIAH 8:17**

Isaiah decided to wait for the Lord, though God had "turned away from the people of Israel." Many of the prophecies God gave through the prophets would not come true for 700 years; others still haven't been fulfilled. Are you willing to accept the Lord's timing, not yours?

**The Darkness Turns to Light - Verses 19-22**

<sup>19</sup> When someone tells you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? <sup>20</sup> Consult God's instruction and the testimony of warning. If anyone does not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. <sup>21</sup> Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. <sup>22</sup> Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness.

**ISAIAH 8:19**

The people would consult mediums and psychics, seeking answers from dead people instead of consulting the living God. God alone knows the future, and only he is eternal. We can trust God to guide us.

**ISAIAH 8:21**

After rejecting God's plan for them, the people of Judah would blame God for their trials. People continually blame God for their self-induced problems. How do you respond to the unpleasant results of your own choices? Where do you fix the blame? Instead of blaming God, look for ways to grow through your bad choices and failures.

## Chapter 9 Study Notes

### The People Walk In Darkness - Verses 1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. <sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. <sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

### ISAIAH 9:1

In our gloom and despair, we fear that our sorrows and troubles will never end. But we can take comfort in this certainty: Although the Lord may not always spare us from troubles, if we follow him wholeheartedly, he will lead us safely through them.

### ISAIAH 9:1-7

This child, who would become their deliverer, is the Messiah, Jesus. Matthew quotes these verses in describing Christ's ministry (Matthew 4:15, 16). The territories of Zebulun and Naphtali represent the northern kingdom as a whole. These were also the territories where Jesus grew up and often ministered; this is why they would see "a great light."

### ISAIAH 9:2-6

In a time of great darkness, God promised to send a light who would shine on everyone living in the shadow of death. He is both "Wonderful Counselor" and "Mighty God." This message of hope was fulfilled in the birth of Christ and the establishment of his eternal Kingdom. He came to deliver all people from their slavery to sin.

### The LORD's Anger Against Israel - Verses 8-21

<sup>8</sup> The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel. <sup>9</sup> All the people will know it -Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria—who say with pride and arrogance of heart, <sup>10</sup> "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars." <sup>11</sup> But the LORD has strengthened Rezin's foes against them and has spurred their enemies on. <sup>12</sup> Arameans from the east and

Philistines from the west have devoured Israel with open mouth. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised. <sup>13</sup> But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD Almighty. <sup>14</sup> So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day; <sup>15</sup> the elders and dignitaries are the head, the prophets who teach lies are the tail. <sup>16</sup> Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray. <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men, nor will he pity the fatherless and widows, for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks folly. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised. <sup>18</sup> Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns, it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke. <sup>19</sup> By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched and the people will be fuel for the fire; they will not spare one another. <sup>20</sup> On the right they will devour but still be hungry; on the left they will eat, but not be satisfied. Each will feed on the flesh of their own offspring: <sup>21</sup> Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh; together they will turn against Judah. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

### **ISAIAH 9:8-10**

Pride made Israel think it would recover and rebuild in its own strength. Even though God made the people of Israel a nation and gave them the land they occupied, they put their trust in themselves rather than in him. Too often we take pride in our accomplishments, forgetting that it is God who has given us our resources and abilities. We may even become proud of our unique status as Christians. God is not pleased with any pride or trust in ourselves because it cuts off our contact with him.

### **ISAIAH 9:21**

Ephraim and Manasseh were tribes in the northern kingdom descended from Joseph's two sons. They fought a civil war because of their selfishness and wickedness (see Judges 12:4).