

King Ahaz will soon discover the God “who is with us” bringing the very thing he has trusted (Assyria) to come against him.

“Then the Lord will bring things on you, your nation, and your family unlike anything since Israel broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria upon you!”
Isaiah 7:17

Up until the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1948, skeptics assumed this was “*Predictive prophecy*”—Writings that claim to predict the future were written at the same time or after the events they claim to predict. Meaning it was added to Isaiah’s Book during the New Testaments writing.

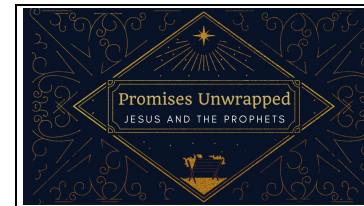
Dead Sea Scrolls were dated 100-300 years before Christ lived. In them was a complete copy of the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah 7:14 and so many other prophecies from Isaiah were present.

This means that the channel of the blessing of the Most high flowed downward to us, in order that the child might be our upward cleansing.

“But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins.” 1 John 3:5

Community Group Questions:

1. What did you learn about OT prophecy?
2. What was God working to get from King Ahaz?
3. How does Isaiah 7:14 grow your faith in God?
4. How would you explain the significance of the “*Dead Sea Scrolls*” to a skeptic of Biblical prophecy?



Prophecy of the Virgin Birth Isaiah 7:1-17

When Ahaz, son of Jotham and grandson of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, set out to attack Jerusalem. However, they were unable to carry out their plan.² The news had come to the royal court of Judah: “Syria is allied with Israel against us!” So the hearts of the king and his people trembled with fear, like trees shaking in a storm.³ Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Take your son Shear-jashub and go out to meet King Ahaz. You will find him at the end of the aqueduct that feeds water into the upper pool, near the road leading to the field where cloth is washed.”⁴ Tell him to stop worrying. Tell him he doesn’t need to fear the fierce anger of those two burned-out embers, King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah.

⁵Yes, the kings of Syria and Israel are plotting against him, saying, ⁶“We will attack Judah and capture it for ourselves. Then we will install the son of Tabeel as Judah’s king.” ⁷But this is what the Sovereign Lord says, “This invasion will never happen; it will never take place; ⁸for Syria is no stronger than its capital, Damascus, and Damascus is no stronger than its king, Rezin. As for Israel, within sixty-five years it will be crushed and completely destroyed. ⁹Israel is no stronger than its capital, Samaria, and Samaria is no stronger than its king, Pekah son of Remaliah. Unless your faith is firm, I cannot make you stand firm.” ¹⁰Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.” ¹²But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the Lord like that.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well?” ¹⁴All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). ¹⁵By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. ¹⁶For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted. ¹⁷“Then the Lord will bring things on you, your nation, and your family unlike anything since Israel broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria upon you!”

What is prophecy?

Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,²¹ or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:20,21

Who is King Ahaz of Judah?

Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king (over Judah) and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. He did not do what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord his God, as his ancestor David had done. 3 Instead, he followed the example of the kings of Israel, even sacrificing his own son in the fire. 2 Kings 16:2,3

What's going on in Judah?

When Ahaz, son of Jotham and grandson of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, set out to attack Jerusalem. However, they were unable to carry out their plan. Isaiah 7:1

King Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria with this message: "I am your servant and your vassal. Come up and rescue me from the attacking armies of Aram and Israel." 8 Then Ahaz took the silver and gold from the Temple of the Lord and the palace treasury and sent it as a payment to the Assyrian king. 2 Kings 16:7,8

God sends Isaiah to speak with Ahaz:

Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Take your son Shear-jashub to meet Ahaz. You will find him at the end of the aqueduct of the upper pool, near the road leading to the field where cloth is washed. Isaiah 7:3

"Pool" is a Hebrew *homograph*. A homograph is 2 words spelled the same but having different meanings.

"Pool" can also be translated as *"blessing"*.

"Upper Pool" is also called the "The blessing of the Most High",

The aqueduct that flows down from the pool ends where it intersects the road that comes up from the place of washing.

What would those specific location details symbolize?

It could only describe Jesus himself. He is the end of the channel of the blessing of the Most High and He is also the way of cleansing.

God tells Isaiah:

Tell him (King Ahaz) to stop worrying. Tell him he doesn't need to fear the fierce anger of those two burned-out embers, King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah. ... This is what the Sovereign Lord says: *"This invasion will never happen; it will never take place; 8 for Syria is no stronger than its capital, Damascus, and Damascus is no stronger than its king, Rezin. As for Israel, within sixty-five years it will be crushed and completely destroyed."* Isaiah 7:4, 7,8

In 722 B.C. (14 years after this prophecy was given) the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Later Isaiah returns to speak with Ahaz:

Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead." ¹² But the king refused. "No," he said, "I will not test the Lord like that." Isaiah 7:1-12

Why Isaiah goes back to Ahaz: Because King Ahaz has no intention of listening to Isaiah and trusting God and Ahaz feigns piety testing God's patience.

Then Isaiah said, "Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? Isaiah 7:13

God reminds Ahaz and everyone that He will Keep his promise to deliver His people:

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). Isaiah 7:14

1st significance of the prophecy: Ahaz need not go to Assyria because God is with Judah.

2nd significance of the prophecy: *"God is coming to be with us"* An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20