

A What will happen?

❖ The Word of God is fulfilled. Isaiah 7:15-16.

- In 734 BC, the Word of God foretold that before the child would be able to speak clearly and to distinguish between good and evil, the kingdoms of Israel and Syria would no longer exist (Isaiah 8:4; 7:16).
 - (1) Two years later, in 732 BC, Syria was conquered by the Assyrian Empire. In that moment, Isaiah's son was less than one year old, and he could only babble.
 - (2) Twelve years later, in 722 BC, Isaiah's son was able to make decisions. Then the kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Shalmaneser V. The Israelites were deported to Mesopotamia and Media (2 Kings 17:3-6).

❖ The consequences of disobedience. Isaiah 7:17-25.

- God had promised that He would destroy the kingdoms of Israel and Syria Himself, so Ahaz didn't have to do anything to bring it to pass.
- However, Ahaz disobeyed Him and formed an alliance with Assyria. He also worshipped Syria's gods because he believed they were more powerful than God (2 Chronicles 28:22-23).
- Therefore, God sent Egypt and Assyria (the fly and the bee, v. 18) against Judah. He used Assyria as a "hired razor" to destroy the kingdom of Judah (v. 20).

❖ Beaten, but not destroyed. Isaiah 8:1-10.

- The name of Isaiah's son [Maher-shalal-hash-baz] was a sign (v. 18). It meant "Speed the spoil, hasten the booty".
- It was a warning. Assyria would conquer the lands of Syria and Israel. However, Tiglath-Pileser III came like "the waters of the River" and went further. He destroyed the land of Judah too.
- God was merciful. He let him "reach up to the neck" only, so Judah was not completely destroyed. The remnant was saved.

B What should we do?

❖ Fear the Lord. Isaiah 8:11-15.

- God is the only one we should hallow [obey], fear [respect], and even be afraid of (v. 13).
- We truly fear God by acknowledging that He is the supreme Power of the Universe. If He is with you, nobody can hurt you without His permission. If God is against you because you have rebelled against Him, then you should be afraid of Him.

❖ Don't believe the lies. Isaiah 8:16-22.

- Idols may not be worshipped openly, but our culture is full of beliefs about the dead communicating with the living and deciding or foretelling their future. Spiritualism, modern sorcery, and the New Age spread this message all around.
- We must base our beliefs on the Bible alone and reject those subtle lies firmly. Rejecting them is a matter of loyalty to God.