



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 32 – Wicked King Ahaz and Two Faithful Prophets (Isaiah 1-35; Micah; Second Kings 16; Second Chronicles 28)

#### Ahaz of Judah (743-728 BC)

After God had sent His two prophets Amos and Hosea to warn Israel of the consequences of their sins for the last time, the end came fast. The powerful Jeroboam II died in 753 BC. After him six different kings ruled in the 31 short years that Israel continued to exist as a nation. Already in the time of Menahem (752-742 BC), Tiglathpileser III (also called Pul) of Assyria (745-727 BC) came to attack Israel.

Later, when Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria joined forces against Ahaz of Judah, Ahaz asked Tiglathpileser III to attack Israel and Syria. He did so, with the result that Damascus and the Syrian kingdom fell in 732 BC, and many Israelites were carried off into captivity as well. By this time Ammon, Moab, Edom, Philistia, and even Judah were satellites of the powerful Assyrian Empire.

The next Assyrian emperor, Shalmaneser V (727-722 BC), besieged Samaria, and together with his successor Sargon II (722-705 BC) they finally took it in 722 BC. This was the end of the kingdom of Israel.

Judah, however, was delivered from the Assyrians, even though the king of Judah, Ahaz, was a very wicked ruler. As the prophets Isaiah and Micah had declared, God's reason for delivering Judah at this time was His promise to David of an everlasting kingdom. At this dangerous time when Assyria threatened Judah, God through His prophets Isaiah and Micah gave His people precious promises concerning the coming of the Messiah, their Savior **JESUS**. God foretold His birth of a virgin and His birthplace, and God reminded the people that the Messiah would be a King from the family of David and David's father Jesse. Isaiah and Micah also fiercely condemned the evils of the king and his people, but they always held out the promises of God to the repentant remnant.

Read at least the first 12 chapters of Isaiah and the book of Micah, as well as the chapters from 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles in this section. Try to read all of Isaiah when you can. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

1. Ahaz introduces wicked idolatry into Judah (2 Kings 16:1-4; 2 Chronicles 28:1-4).
2. Ahaz battles unsuccessfully against Pekah of Israel and Rezin of Syria (2 Kings 16:5-6; 2 Chronicles 28:5-8).

Israel kills 120 000 men of Judah in one day.

3. The prophet Oded tells Israel to free the 200 000 prisoners from Judah (2 Chronicles 28:9-15).
4. The prophet Isaiah with Shear-Jashub, his son, tells Ahaz not to be afraid of Pekah and Rezin (Isaiah 7:1-9).

Shear-Jashub means "A Remnant Will Return".

5. Isaiah gives Ahaz a sign: the virgin birth of Immanuel: God with Us (Isaiah 7:10-15).

**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel"** (v. \_\_\_\_

This prophecy was fulfilled when the Virgin Mary gave birth to **JESUS**, the God-man.

6. Isaiah prophesies that Assyria will destroy both Israel and Syria (Isaiah 7:16 – 8:4).  
Isaiah's second son was Mahe-Shalal-Hash-Baz, which means "Hasten to the Spoil, Hurry to the Prey".
7. Assyria will attack Judah also, but God will protect Judah (Isaiah 8:5-22).
8. Isaiah prophesies the future glories of the Son of David, Immanuel (Isaiah 9:1-7).  
**"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; ...His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"** (v. \_\_\_)
9. Isaiah predicts the terrible end of Israel (Isaiah 9:8 – 10:4).
10. Isaiah predicts the end of proud Assyria also (Isaiah 10:5-34).
11. Isaiah foresees the glorious days of the Son of David, Immanuel (Isaiah 11:1 – 12:6)  
**"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him"** (vv. 11:\_\_\_)
12. Under attack from Israel, Syria, Edom, and Philistia, Ahaz pays Tiglathpileser III of Assyria to have him attack Israel and Syria (2 Kings 16:7-9; 2 Chronicles 28:16-21).
13. Ahaz worships the idols of defeated Syria (2 Kings 16:10-18; 2 Chronicles 28:22-35).
14. Ahaz concludes his wicked reign and dies (2 Kings 16:19-20; 2 Chronicles 28:26-27).

### **The Prophet ISAIAH**

Chapters 7-12 of Isaiah can be called the Book of Immanuel. In these chapters God, through Isaiah, renewed the promise of the coming Messiah who was to come from the family of David. Isaiah gives Him the name IMMANUEL, which means "God with us". The Messiah would be not only a true human being, born of a virgin mother; He would also be true God, Immanuel, living with other human beings on this earth. He would be from the family of Jesse, David's father, but at the same time He would be Mighty God. We think of these prophecies of Immanuel especially during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

The 66 chapters of Isaiah's prophecy contain some of the most beautiful poetry of the Bible. Isaiah has often been called the evangelist of the Old Testament because his prophecy describes Christ's birth, suffering, death, and final victory over His foes.

Many Bible teachers today speak of two Isaiahs: one who wrote chapters 1-39 and another one who wrote chapters 40-66. They falsely claim that there were two different authors of the book of Isaiah because they do not believe that Isaiah could have predicted the future as accurately as he did.

But according to the words of the apostle John, we should believe that one man, Isaiah, wrote the entire book. John 12:37-41 quotes passages from both the first part of the book and the last part of the book and says that the prophet Isaiah is the author of both parts. God can reveal the future whenever He chooses to do so, because He knows everything: the past, the present, and the future perfectly.

In 1947 a complete copy of Isaiah's prophecy was found in a cave by the Dead Sea. This manuscript is dated about 125-100 BC and is the oldest known copy of the book. The parchment is 7,3 m long and about 24,4 inches wide<sup>1</sup>. This ancient copy shows that the God has preserved His word for us accurately.

Isaiah delivered his message from the LORD to Judah in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

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<sup>1</sup> 24 feet long and about 10 inches wide

15. Isaiah condemns the sins of Judah, especially their insincere worship (Isaiah 1:1 – 3:15).  
**“I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me”** (v. 1:\_\_\_  
**“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow”** (v. 1:\_\_\_
16. Isaiah condemns the Jewish women for their self-centered vanity (Isaiah 3:16 – 4:1).
17. Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Branch of the LORD, the Messiah **JESUS** (Isaiah 4:2-6).  
**“In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious”** (v. \_\_\_
18. Isaiah compares Judah to a vineyard that produces only bad grapes (Isaiah 5:1-30).  
**“He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes”** (v. \_\_\_
19. Isaiah sees a vision of the Holy, Holy, Holy God (Isaiah 6:1-4).  
**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory”** (v. \_\_\_  
 Martin Luther wrote a hymn on this vision of God.
20. Isaiah receives his call to preach God’s Word to an impenitent people (Isaiah 6:5-13).  
**“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” “Here am I! Send me”** (v. \_\_\_  
 The famous mission hymn “Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying” is based on this passage.
21. Isaiah speaks of the coming Immanuel during the Assyrian threat (The Book of Immanuel – Chapters 7-12).
22. Isaiah prophesies God’s judgment on the nations (Isaiah 13-23).  
 Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Syria, Israel, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, Judah, and Phoenicia are all under the judgment of God because of their sins.
23. Isaiah prophesies God’s judgment on the whole world, but, at the same time, salvation for God’s faithful remnant (Isaiah 24-27).  
**“He will swallow up death forever, and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces”**  
 (25:\_\_\_
24. Isaiah prophesies God’s judgment on Israel and Judah, but promises God’s grace to the faithful remnant (Isaiah 28-29).  
**“I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone”** (28:\_\_\_
25. Isaiah warns Judah not to trust in Egypt, but rather in the LORD (Isaiah 30-31).
26. Isaiah prophesies judgment against God’s enemies, but eternal salvation for God’s people (Isaiah 32-35).  
**“The ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away”**  
 (35:\_\_\_

### The Prophet MICAH

Micah spoke the words of his prophecy in Israel and Judah in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

27. Micah predicts destruction to come on Israel and Judah (Micah 1).
28. Micah predicts judgment on wicked Judah and its false leaders; yet there will be a faithful remnant (Micah 2-3).
29. Micah sees the glories of the New Testament Church (Micah 4:1-8; see also Isaiah 2:1-5).  
**“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks”** (v. \_\_\_
30. Micah predicts the Babylonian Captivity of Judah and Judah’s deliverance from it (Micah 4:9-13).

The Babylonian Captivity was still far in the future: from 606 to 536 BC, over a hundred years after Micah wrote his prophesy.

31. Micah predicts the birth of the victorious Son of David **JESUS** in Bethlehem (Micah 5).

**“Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting”** (v. \_\_\_)

32. Micah accuses God’s people of many sins, and some of them repent (Micah 6:1 – 7:10).

33. God will remember His promises and forgive His people (Micah 7:11-20).

**“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity?”** (v. \_\_\_)

**“You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea”** (v. \_\_\_)

### Questions

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1. What sign did God give King Ahaz of Judah even though he did not want it?
2. When was the promise of this sign fulfilled?
3. Why are chapters 7-12 of the book of Isaiah called the Immanuel book?
4. What is meant by the Branch that comes from Jesse’s family?
5. Why can we be sure that the prophet Isaiah wrote the entire book of Isaiah?
6. What vision did Isaiah receive when he was called to be God’s prophet?
7. Why is Isaiah sometimes called the evangelist among the prophets?
8. What special information did Micah announce concerning the coming Messiah?
9. Provide five examples of Gospel promises in the books of Isaiah and Micah.