

Fact Sheet for **“God Is Not Mocked”**
Isaiah 7:1-9

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There is a verse in Galatians that is a good one to memorize.

ESV Galatians 6:7 ¶ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

This is true not only in eternity but also in the here and now. It is true for children, seniors, and everyone in between. It is true for both Christians and non-Christians. And yet... we as Christians can often be tempted to ignore or deliberately violate this principle. We have come to a passage in Isaiah that speaks to this.

In this portion of Isaiah we will be introduced to Ahaz (one of the kings of Judah, the father of Hezekiah) and Pekah (the next to the last king of Israel). It would be helpful to give some of the background on these two kings before we get into Isaiah from two historical books of the OT, 2 Kings 15:23-16:20 and 2 Chronicles 28:1-27. (*Pause and read these passages.*)

ESV 1 ¶ In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.

2 When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

3 ¶ And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.

"Shear-jashub" means "A remnant shall return". This could be both a promise and a warning.

4 And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. **5** Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, **6** "Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"

God gave this young king a choice, and a promise.

7 thus says the Lord GOD:

"It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

8 For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

And within sixty-five years
Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

9a And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

These words would come true no matter how Ahaz responded. Then God gave a conditional warning to Ahaz.

^{9b} **If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all."**

NAU **Isaiah 7:9** and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you surely shall not last."

This is not how strong his faith was, but whether he would choose to have faith. Ahaz would choose not to follow the Lord. So how did the battle turn out? 2 Chronicles 28:5 states the Lord gave him into the hand of the king of Syria who took captive a great number of people from Judah. Pekah killed 120,000 men of valor from Judah in one day, and took captive 200,000 their relatives. What did Ahaz do (see 2 Kings 16:7-9)? At that time he also lost territory to the Edomites and the Philistines. Ahaz then went to Damascus to meet the king of Assyria. While there he saw an altar and sent its exact model and pattern to Jerusalem to have one built there. He replaced the bronze altar before the temple with the new one. (*Read 2 Kings 16:15; 2 Chronicles 28:19-25*) Then, in the 16th year of his reign, he died.

Yesterday I read Proverbs 10 in my daily devotions. Here is one of those verses that sets apart David from Ahaz.

ESV **Proverbs 10:7** The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.

By the way, how did it turn out for Pekah? Near the end of his reign Tiglath-pileser, king of Assyria, conquered much of Israel. Then in the 20th year of Pekah's reign he too was killed in a conspiracy and the last king of Israel took his place. Ten years later Israel would be completely conquered by Assyria.

From everything we know about Ahaz we would discern that he was not saved. He was a king with great influence over Judah. We are Christians. We are not kings. But this passage still is a great illustration of the biblical principle...

ESV **Galatians 6:7** ¶ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Think about Proverbs 10 again and these verses:
2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 16, 20, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31

There is great advantage in righteousness. God will see to it!