

## Fact Sheet for “Trust God for the Future!” Isaiah 7:10-8:10

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Prophecy has historically proven to be one of the hardest areas of theology. Some areas of theology are widely (*though not universally*) held by Christians. But, we are often widely divergent in our prophetic views. And we can hold those views very strongly and passionately. This is because prophecy was more designed by God to give us a sense of the future, but without the details. Often it is only after the fulfillment of the prophecy that we will see it clearly.

Prophecy comes in many different forms, for *example*...

1. A simple prediction of the future in plain language with a simple fulfillment (see Joshua 6:26 and 1 Kings 16:34)
2. A prediction with no clear understanding as of yet (see Revelation 13:18).

Even...

3. A fulfillment of a prophecy that wasn't recorded in the Bible (see Matthew 2:23).

There is also another kind of prophecy that can be tough to get comfortable with. Some have referred to those prophecies as having a double fulfillment, though it is really a foreshadowing. Today's passage in Isaiah has a very familiar prophecy that is one of those foreshadowings. Here is the familiar text (Matthew 1:22-23).

Look at four of the words of this passage.

Fulfill – This “fulfillment” was intended by God!

Prophet – Isaiah

Virgin - *παρθένος* *par-the'-nos* (a true virgin)

Immanuel – literally “God with us” from the Hebrew

And here is the foreshadowing. Remember Ahaz last week? He was not one of the good kings of Judah. He was a rank idol worshipper. The king of Syria (Rezin) and the king of Israel (the son of Remaliah) attacked Ahaz. Instead of trusting in God for the victory Ahaz would later rob God's temple in order to hire the king of Assyria to help. He hadn't decided on this course yet and God was still giving him a chance to trust.

Read Isaiah 7:10-12 through the character of Ahaz.

Read Isaiah 7:13-14. Consider two of the words of this prophecy...

Immanuel – (עִמָּנוּ אֵל) *I-ma'-nu El*, two words in Hebrew that are translated literally “God with us”

Virgin – עַלְמָה *al-mah'* This word in Hebrew does not mean *exclusively* “virgin”. It can also refer to a young woman of marriageable age. This will become important as we consider this passage in Isaiah.

When this verse was translated into Greek about 400 years later it was translated by the word *παρθένος* *par-the'-nos* (a true virgin). There was now tension in the translation, as we will see later. This is the translation Matthew quotes in Matthew 1:22-23. But as we consider Isaiah's words Ahaz would have been able to see this "sign" that Isaiah was relating take place approximately 700 years *before* Jesus was born!

Read Isaiah 7:15-16. These two verses don't fit the history of Jesus' youth (curds and honey, choose good and refuse evil, the two kings Ahaz dreaded).

Read Isaiah 7:17. Instead of trusting in God Ahaz would hire the king of Assyria, to his own detriment because that king would turn and attack him.

Read Isaiah 7:18-19. The Assyrian and Egyptian armies would both invade the land.

Isaiah 7:20-22. This is what verse 15 spoke about, something that would happen in the days of Ahaz!

Read Isaiah 7:23-25.

Read Isaiah 8:1. Mahershalalhashbaz means "quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil"

Read Isaiah 8:2-4. Compare Isaiah's prediction about curds and honey, and choosing good instead of evil (vs. 15-16). The prophetess was a virgin when Isaiah went to her, but not when she conceived. Mahershalalhashbaz was the sign to Ahaz! The confirmation of this is to be found in Isaiah's next words.

Read Isaiah 8:5-10 and pay attention to the references to "Immanuel in verse 8 and "God is with us" in verse 10.

The birth of Mahershalalhashbaz was a foreshadowing of the birth of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 7:14 had a double fulfillment.

Why is this important? First, unless you understand this you will never understand Isaiah 7 & 8 well. But there is also another thought to take away from this passage in Isaiah this morning.

It was God's intent to have a double fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14.

Matthew 1:22-23 was not an afterthought.

God is in absolute control of current events,  
internationally, nationally, and personally.

We may not understand.

We may see nothing but risk.

But, trust in God for the future!