

This week's Audio, Video, and Teaching Notes are posted here.

Signs and Wonders – Class Four (Assyria is Coming; Ahaz Refuses Gods Help; War Begins in Jerusalem; Judah is Spared Because of an Old Promise; The Northern Kingdom is Destroyed; A Remnant of Israel will Return; Children's Names Given as Signs and Wonders for the Redemption of Israel; Isaiah Walks Naked in the Street; Shear-jashub – A Remnant will Return; A Mighty God; Maher-shalal-hash-baz – Quick to the Spoil; Numbering as the Sands of the Sea; Isaiah and Hosea Share Something in Common; Jezreel – God Will Scatter; Lo-ruhamah – No Mercy; Lo-ammi – Not My People)

September 9, 2023 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/signs-and-wonders-class-four/> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BE9EZ8FQAo>

Teaching Notes Link:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023.9.9-Signs-and-Wonders-Class-Four.pdf>

INTRODUCTION

-Welcome to our series on the Book of Isaiah. This series embarks on an enlightening journey, delving deep into the life and times of one of the most influential prophets in biblical history. Isaiah's words have resonated through the ages. His profound prophecies, remarkably preserved at Qumran and frequently echoed in the New Testament, underscore his unparalleled significance in Jewish and Christian traditions. But who was Isaiah, the man behind these powerful words? The Book of Isaiah is a testament to a prophet's life lived in turbulent times, a reflection of his profound relationship with God, and a testament to his undying hope for his people.

-This study will focus on chapters 1 – 39 because they give off every evidence of being set in the eighth century BCE and have historical material and connections to the time and person of Isaiah. We do have one ruler that's mentioned in chapter 40 – 66, but Cyrus comes from a period much later. We also have two challenges in our study, our material is not laid out chronologically and we also have gaps in timing.

-Prophets, a Prophetess, and a Prostitute... This week's episode in our Isaiah series uncovers a remarkable, yet often overlooked, tapestry of intertwined prophetic lives. In the shadow of the reigns of Uzziah, Yotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, four prophets—Hosea, Isaiah, Amos, and Micah—proclaimed their visions. But did you know that amidst the turbulence, at least two of these prophets became fathers? Their children, bearing names that foretold imminent events, became living prophecies. Isaiah described them as "signs and wonders." The stories behind these children and their mothers—one a prophetess, the other a prostitute—paint a captivating narrative of faith, prophecy, and destiny.

TEACHING NOTES

-Today is class four in our Isaiah series and is titled "Signs and Wonders". Last week we focused on the birth of a child in Isaiah 7, and this was to be a sign that was relevant to the circumstances in the days of Ahaz. The child's name according to the mother was to

be Immanuel. The Hebrew meaning is, with us is God. Less literally, God with us. This child's name represents God being among the people in some way.

-Assyria is Coming

-Aside from the well-known text of Isaiah 7:14, the child's name appears in two more texts that give us a little bit more context. As we move into Isaiah 8, we are dealing with a text that comes to us in the first person. The message from Isaiah 7 and pushing further into the text, Assyria is coming. The threat of Assyria is looming.

-Ahaz Refuses Gods Help

-Isa 8: 5 The LORD spoke to me again: 6 "Because this people has refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and rejoice over Rezin and the son of Remaliah, 7 therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory. And it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks, 8 and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel." 9 Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; give ear, all you far countries; strap on your armor and be shattered; strap on your armor and be shattered. 10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

-The idea is the people being addressed have spurned the water source right here. The very way in which you'll be sustained during these troublesome times is present. What we know historically during this time is that the waters of Shiloah are being brought into the city to sustain the people in times of conflict. The Gihon spring, the main water source, is outside the ancient city wall. They've rejected these waters that could sustain them and have leaned on Assyria. Ahaz wants help from the imminent danger from the north, of the king of Aram and the king of Israel. If Ahaz rejects the sustaining help of Shiloah, what you have here, meaning Gods help, you're going to get water. It's going to come in, up to the neck. Ahaz is pushing things too far and rejecting the help from God.

-Isa 7: 13 And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

-Ahaz seeks help from Assyria. He's been offered that God is going to be with them.

Remember that Ahaz is not a godly king, and he doesn't listen to what Isaiah tells him. Rather than going to God and looking towards the gentle waters of Shiloah he's going to get the waters from the Euphrates.

-War Begins in Jerusalem

-2Kin 16: 5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to wage war on Jerusalem, and they besieged Ahaz but could not conquer him. 6 At that time Rezin the king of Syria recovered Elath for Syria and drove the men of Judah from Elath, and the Edomites came to Elath, where they dwell to this day. 7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and rescue me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who are attacking me." 8 Ahaz also took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD and in the treasures of the king's house and sent a present to the king of Assyria. 9 And the king of Assyria listened to him. The king of Assyria marched up against Damascus and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir, and he killed Rezin.

-Judah is Spared Because of an Old Promise

-We are diving into the midst of this battle and Ahaz goes to the king of Assyria for help and he does come in to help, however he has to be paid off by Ahaz. Later, Ahaz goes to

Assyria to meet with the king. Despite Ahaz looking to Assyria for help, Judah will be spared. Even though Ahaz is wicked and does things contrary to what God desires, God has promised through the name of this child that he will not destroy Judah. The child's name is Immanuel – with us is God. The waters of the Euphrates rise to the neck. It's dangerous, but the waters will not overtake you because God is with you. You're going to feel like you could drown at any minute. The reason that God is with us, Judah, is because of an old promise that God made when the kingdom was divided. Back to the days following the death of Solomon and the split of the tribes. At that time, it was said that he was going to keep a remnant in Judah for the house of David. The waters of the Euphrates will reach the neck, but God is with us.

-The Northern Kingdom is Destroyed

-Not so with the Northern Kingdom. Ultimately the Northern Kingdom would be no more. All of this is essential for understanding the world and words of Isaiah. Judah will not be defeated, but the north will.

-Isa 7: 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.

-The Northern Kingdom, Israel, will be no more a people, but Judah would be spared. Of Ephraim, Israel, the Northern Kingdom, only a remnant will make it.

-A Remnant of Israel will Return

-Isa 10: 20 In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them ((Assyria)), but will lean on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. 21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. 22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness. 23 For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a full end, as decreed, in the midst of all the earth.

-We are dealing with a promise that a remnant of the north will return. In Isaiah 10:21 when it says, a remnant will return, this is tied to the name of Isaiah's son.

-Isa 7: 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.

-Children's Names Given as Signs and Wonders for the Redemption of Israel

-This is the beginning of the narrative where Isaiah and Shear-jashub are going to Ahaz and explain to him what he needs to do or how it needs to go. This meeting will lead to the sign of Isaiah 7:14. Shear-jashub and the other children are for signs and wonders.

-Isa 8: 16 Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. 17 I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. 18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

-Remember that the birth of Immanuel was for signs and wonders from the LORD of hosts. This phrase, "signs and wonders" appears twelve times in the Hebrew bible.

-Exo 7: 3 But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt,

-Deu 4: 34 Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

-Deu 6: 22 And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes.

-Deu 7: 19 the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

-Deu 34: 10 And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, 11 none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,

-Psa 78: 43 when he performed his signs in Egypt and his marvels in the fields of Zoan. 44 He turned their rivers to blood, so that they could not drink of their streams.

-Psa 105: 26 He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen. 27 They performed his signs among them and miracles in the land of Ham.

-Psa 135: 9 who in your midst, O Egypt, sent signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants;

-Neh 9: 10 and performed signs and wonders against Pharaoh and all his servants and all the people of his land, for you knew that they acted arrogantly against our fathers. And you made a name for yourself, as it is to this day.

-Jer 32: 20 You have shown signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and to this day in Israel and among all mankind, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day.

-These signs and wonders are Gods intervention into the affairs of men on behalf of bringing about his purposes and plans. Most of these are tied to God intervening on behalf of his people to rescue them from an oppressor. So, what does Isaiah mean when he talks about his children's names. This suggests that the children's names are going to be describing something related to the redemption of the children of Israel.

-Isaiah Walks Naked in the Street

-Isa 20: 1 In the year that the commander in chief, who was sent by Sargon the king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and fought against it and captured it-- 2 at that time the LORD spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go, and loose the sackcloth from your waist and take off your sandals from your feet," and he did so, walking naked and barefoot. 3 Then the LORD said, "As my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years as a sign and a portent against Egypt and Cush, 4 so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptian captives and the Cushite exiles, both the young and the old, naked and barefoot, with buttocks uncovered, the nakedness of Egypt.

-People witnessing the prophet Isaiah walk naked down the street was a sign and a wonder ultimately depicting that the people of that time would be carried away captive in a similar state. In 2Kings 18: 17 and following, this period of time is around the time of Hezekiah. 2Kings 18 is tied closely and comes just after Isaiah 20.

-Shear-jashub – A Remnant will Return

-Biblically speaking, signs and wonders are acts of God, whereby he steps into and intervenes into history on behalf of bringing about his plans and purposes. Or he personally doesn't step in but brings that to fruition through the agency of one of his prophets. Isaiah saw his children as signs and wonders in Israel. We know of two children, one is Shear-jashub from Isaiah 7.

-Isa 7: 3 And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son,

-Isa 10: 21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. 22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

-A Mighty God

-So, a remnant is to return and this prophecy in Isaiah 10 uses Isaiah's son's name Shear-jashub. Not just a remnant to return, a return to what or to whom? To the mighty God.

-Isa 9: 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-In the name of this child, who is this child? This child has in its name, Mighty God. It doesn't mean that the child is going to be God, the Mighty God. What it's saying is that this name celebrates because it is part of the sign and wonder in that time. Who is the child of Isaiah 9:6?

-Maher-shalal-hash-baz – Quick to the Spoil

-Isa 8: 1 Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write on it in common characters, 'Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz.' 2 And I will get reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me." 3 And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz; 4 for before the boy knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

-Isa 10: 5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! 6 Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. 7 But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few; 8 for he says: "Are not my commanders all kings? 9 Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus? 10 As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose carved images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, 11 shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols as I have done to Samaria and her images?"

-This gives us an insight into the attacking king of Assyria in thought. Yes, the king of Assyria is the rod that God will use to punish, but he takes it too far. Remember, Judah will be saved. He tries to come on Jerusalem, but God is with us. Immanuel. He tried to move in and tried to destroy, but he couldn't.

-Numbering as the Sands of the Sea

-Isa 10: 22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

-The population and massiveness of Israel is referred to as the sands of the sea. This is pointing to something that we have to pick up.

-Gen 22: 16 and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, 18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

-In context, this is not talking about an individual, it's talking about a group. Your seed will be as numerous as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

-Gen 32: 12 But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

-Isa 10: 22 For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return. Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

-Hos 1: 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

-Isaiah and Hosea Share Something in Common

-Hosea is a prophet at the same time as Isaiah. Hosea is in the north, but he's dealing with and prophesying about matters that have to do with Samaria in the north and Jerusalem. Isaiah at the same time is prophesying about Judah and Jerusalem. We also have Amos and Micah prophesying at the same time as Isaiah and Hosea. When it comes to Isaiah and Hosea it's interesting because there's something they have in common. That the names of their children are relevant to the events of their day. When we talk about the names of the children that are reported in Isaiah 7 – 10, some might argue that these are all Isaiah's children.

-Isa 8: 16 Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. 17 I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. 18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

-We have all those children that are right there together. There is Immanuel, Maher-shalal-hash-baz, Shear-jashub, and Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The names of these children in Isaiah 7 – 10 tell a story. Here's the story, Israel in the north will be a spoil and a prey. (Maher-shalal-hash-baz) God will be with Judah. (Immanuel) The water is going to come to the neck, but they'll be ok. Assyria is going to threaten, but they won't overcome. The north, the tribes of Israel, Ephraim, the Northern Kingdom, though they are taken away, numbering as the sands of the sea, a remnant will return. (Shear-jashub) Just as Isaiah's children's names have prophetic meaning. They are for signs and wonders and tied to what God is going to do at that time, in those days. So are Hosea's children. The names of Hosea's children also tell a story. The details are not exact, but these two prophets are prophesying at the same time and they're telling the same story basically.

-Jezreel – God Will Scatter

-Hos 1: 2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD." 3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. 4 And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel ((God will scatter)), for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

-The ruin, the end of the kingdom of Israel and the end of Jehu's house.

-2Kin 10: 30 And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

-2Kin 15: 12 (This was the promise of the LORD that he gave to Jehu, "Your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." And so it came to pass.)

-This tells the story of the house of Jehu and how he was promised because of a certain action that he would have four kings. Those four kings run out in the days of Isaiah and Hosea.

-Lo-ruhamah – No Mercy

-Hos 1: 6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy ((Lo-ruhamah)), for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. 7 But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

-Let me tell you how exact and precise this prophecy is for the time. He says Israel, the north is going to be no more, Lo-ruhamah – no mercy. He says, but I will have mercy on Judah, and I will save them. Guess what happens in that time, God saves Judah. Why – Immanuel because God is with us. The water would reach to the neck, but it wouldn't overtake them. The children of Isaiah and the children of Hosea and their names, they're different, but they're telling the same story. The north will be speedy to the prey / spoil and will be taken captive, but the south, God will have mercy on them. God is with us. This is exactly what happened.

-2Kin 17: 18 Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

-2Kin 17: 23 until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

-The history of the time is that the Northern Tribes were taken away by Assyria.

Although with Judah being attacked and the threat being very real, God saved just as he said he would, Judah.

-Lo-ammi – Not My People

-Hos 1: 8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. 9 And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People ((Lo-ammi)), for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

-This is addressed to the tribes of the north. People have to understand the distinction between the two and this is being enacted in the days of Isaiah. Isaiah is there to see this utter spoil taken, prey hastened, but he sees that a remnant ultimately will return. He knows that Judah will be saved.

-The signs and wonders biblically are acts of God. When God steps into history to bring about his plans and purposes. Or he brings this about through the agency of a prophet. He not only brings that about, but he shows that in advance through the naming of the children of these prophets.

-I find it interesting that two prophets, living at the same time, one with a woman that's referred to as a prophetess, the other with a woman that's referred to as a prostitute and tell the same story for the people of that time. The enemy will attack. The north will be decimated and taken away, but a remnant will return, and Judah will survive because, Immanuel.

Shabbat Shalom, Shavua Tov!

THIS WEEK IN TORAH

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

This week's Torah Portion Nitzavim: "You Are Standing" (Deuteronomy 29:9 – 30:20)
The covenant renewed in Moab, Warning against idolatry, Eventual repentance and forgiveness, The Torah is accessible, The choice of life and death, Choose life.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

This week's Torah Portion VaYelech: "And He Went" (Deuteronomy 31:1 – 31:30)
Moses takes leave, Joshua to succeed Moses, Hakhel / The king reads Deuteronomy, The reading of the law, Moses end draws near, The Torah as testimony, Joshua commissioned to lead Israel.



The Pentateuch: A New Look – These are Moses's Words – The Final Acts of Moses – Class Forty-Six

(Difficulties in Chronological Order and Geography; The Final Five Months; Moses Wrote This Torah; Seven References to Moses Writing Something; The Commissioning of Joshua; The Sin in Tzin – Aaron and Moses are Not Allowed to Enter the Promise Land; Aaron Dies in the Wilderness of Tzin – West of the Jordan; The Bronze Serpent; Oboth and Wadi Zered; These are the Words That Moses Spoke; Summary – "The Final Acts of Moses" Horizontal Study Chart; Moses' Last Words to YHVH and His Charge to Joshua; Joshua is Commissioned; The Torah is Written)

October 1, 2022 – Ross Nichols

Audio/Video Links:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/the-final-acts-of-moses/> &

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAi3YeVDF2g>

The Final Acts of Moses Horizontal Study Sheet Link:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/The-Final-Acts-of-Moses.pdf>

Teaching Notes Link:

<https://unitedisraelworldunion.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022.10.1-The-Pentateuch-A-New-Look-The-Final-Acts-of-Moses-Class-Forty-Six.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

-Blossoming Rose Israel Tours (2023): <https://blossomingrose.org/>

-Tanakh Tours – Egypt / Jordan, October 31 – November 12, 2023: Jono Vandor & Ross Nichols, <https://www.tanakhtours.com/biblical-egypt-jordan-tour/> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwVIZvqHq-I>

-Tanakh Tours – Israel, November 12 – November 19, 2023: Jono Vandor & Ross Nichols, <https://www.tanakhtours.com/tanakh-tour-november-2021/>

-Skeptics & Scholars Expedition 2024, October 27 – November 4, 2024: Derek Lambert – Host of MythVision, Ross Nichols – UIWU, and Neal Sendlak – Gnostic Informant <https://www.lipkintours.com/index.php?dir=site&page=catalog&op=item&cs=3487>

-James Tabor Blog: <https://jamestabor.com/>

-James Tabor YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/jamestaborvideos>

-Ross K. Nichols YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9-ZXSjHKN6L0N4EbjhJ2fA>

-UIWU YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq31WAlio9zC1eXDzrEVzlg/featured>

-Ross and Jono LIVE: Hebrew Bible Insights YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzmkIBloXBL8ZPUPmJOR5sJ-N4cRvKnDL>

-The Moses Scroll – Authors Blog <https://themosesscroll.com/authors-blog/>