

The Prophecies of Isaiah ¹⁹

Lesson 7

Vision five is short; however, it acts as a time-marker in the story. It indicates that within a year and nine months Assyria will attack both Damascus and Samaria as noted in vision four found in Isaiah chapter 7.

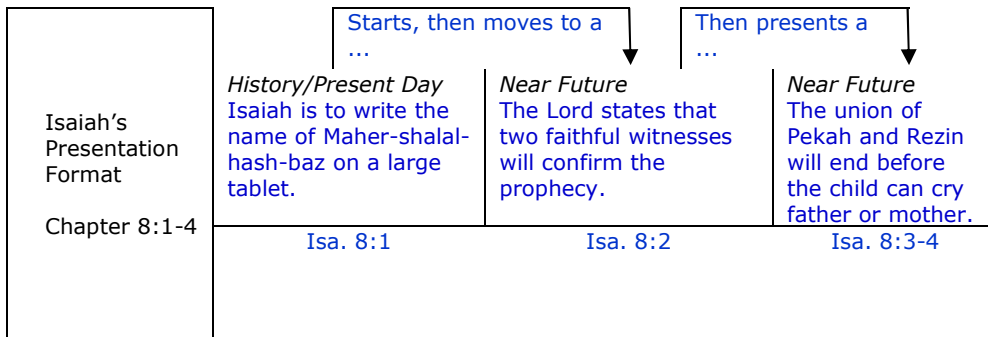


Figure 16: Fifth Vision to Isaiah – Chapter 8:1-4

History/Present Day

Swift and Speedy

Isaiah 8:1 Then the LORD said to me, "Take for yourself a large tablet and write on it in ordinary letters: Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey."

The large tablet is not a scroll or even a piece of paper of oversized proportion. Neither is it a stack of pages of writing material. In Hebrew, the Lord is asking Isaiah to take a large polished piece of metal, such as an ancient brass mirror, rendered clear and bright, polished to reflect an image. On that large mirror, Isaiah is to engrave four words, מהר שלל הש בו or *maher shalal hash baz*, with a workman's engraving tool in deep lasting letters. Our Scripture renders those four words as "Swift to the booty, speedy is the prey." A better translation is to make haste to the spoil; fall upon the prey.

We can only wonder about Isaiah's reputation among the people at this point. Do the people believe him? Do they consider him a man of God with a true and faithful message from the Lord? He has delivered messages from the Lord for more than 20 years by this time. Are they in awe when they see him carrying this large engraved mirror through the streets of Jerusalem? Do they know the message is a warning to the Northern Kingdom and Aram or do they simply fear for their safety? The words are a call to Assyria to make a quick journey to prey on the two kingdoms and rob them of their valuables.

Hebrew Names Their Meanings	
Maher-Shalal-hash-baz	Make haste to the spoil; fall upon the prey.
Uriah	The Lord is my light.
Zechariah	Jehovah is renowned or remembered.
Jeberechaih	Speak well of or kneel before the Lord.

Figure 17: Hebrew Names

¹⁹ All Scriptures in this lesson entitled "The Prophecies of Isaiah" are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, Copyright (C) 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1988, by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Near Future

Faithful Witnesses

Isaiah 8:2 "And I will take to Myself faithful witnesses for testimony, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah."

Witnesses will be needed to confirm the fulfillment of the words written on the mirror. The Lord chooses Uriah and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah. Uriah means the Lord is my light and Zechariah means Jehovah is renowned or remembered. Zechariah's father was Jererechiah and his name means speaking well of or kneeling before the Lord. All the names confirm that these two men will testify to the truth of Isaiah's prophecy when it occurs in the near future.

The Scripture does not tell of the testimony of these two men. Some confuse Uriah with Urijah found in Second Kings 16:10-16, but they are not the same.

Near Future

Isaiah's Wife and Child

Isaiah 8:3 So I approached the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz; ⁴for before the boy knows how to cry out 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

Isaiah's wife gives birth to their second child, another son. In the fourth vision, Isaiah was instructed to take his son Shear-jashub with him when he met Ahaz at the tunnel by Gihon Springs and the upper pool. Here, the Lord tells Isaiah to have another son with his wife and give him the name written on the mirror. Isaiah's wife is called a prophetess simply because she is the wife of a prophet. Six women are called prophetess in the Scripture.

Other Prophetess in Scripture

Miriam	Exodus 15:20
Deborah	Judges 4:4
Huldah	2 Kings 22:14
Wife of Isaiah	Isaiah 8:3
Noadiah	Nehemiah 6:14
Anna	Luke 2:36

Table 5: Prophetess found in Scripture

None of them are spokespersons for God; they are simply called prophetess because they are married to prophets. The same is true of the deaconess in the Scripture. They did not serve in the deaconate; they are called deaconess because they are the wives of deacons.

The birth of Maher-shalal-hash-baz starts a countdown for the time left in the odd union of Rezin from Damascus and Pekah from Samaria. Before that child "knows how to cry out 'My father' or 'My mother,'" the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried to Assyria's king. Second Kings and First Chronicles record the fulfillment of Damascus' overthrow and Samaria's loss of the spoils of the tribal areas of Naphtali, Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh to Assyria.

2 Kings 15:29 In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser (*Pul*) king of Assyria came and captured Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

2 Kings 16:9 So the king of Assyria listened to him; and the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and captured it, and carried *the people of* it away into exile to Kir, and put Rezin to death.

1 Chronicles 5:26 So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, (*Tiglath-pileser*) king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away into exile, namely the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and to the river of Gozan, to this day.

Within one year and nine months from this prophecy, Rezin is dead, Damascus is under the control of Pul (*Tilgath-pileser*) and Samaria has lost all of its north and northwestern tribal areas to Assyria. The year is 740 BC.

Table 6: Scripture Fulfillment in Isaiah – Chapter 8:1-4

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 8:1	<i>History/Present Day</i> Isaiah is to write the name of Maher-shalal-hash-baz on a large tablet.	Fulfilled in 741 BC
Isa. 8:2	<i>Near Future</i> The Lord states that two faithful witnesses will confirm the prophecy.	Fulfilled in 740 BC
Isa. 8:3-4	<i>Near Future</i> The union of Pekah and Rezin will end before the child can cry father or mother.	Fulfilled in 740 BC

Vision Five of Isaiah Chapter 8:1-14 is totally fulfilled.

Vision 6 – Part 1

The sixth vision of Isaiah is the second longest in the book falling behind vision two. The table below provides a summary of its many different parts.

Isaiah's Presentation Format Chapters 8:5 – 12:6	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	
	<i>Near Future</i>	<i>History/ Present Day</i>	<i>Far Prophecy</i>	<i>Near Future</i>	<i>History/ Present Day</i>	<i>Near Future</i>	<i>Far Prophecy</i>
	The Lord will call for the waters of Assyria to run over Israel.	Cursing and hopeless, the Israelites must get ready for their exile because they have failed to see the signs and return to the Lord.	Israel will see a great light when a wonderful Child is born.	All of the Northern Kingdom will be cut off, both the head and tail with the help of the Aramians and the Philistines.	The Lord is angry with the evil people of the Northern Kingdom, especially the strongest two tribes.	The Lord is sending Assyria to be His instrument of judgment but He will punish Assyria for its attitude while working for the Lord; however, a remnant of Israel will survive Assyria's attack and Judah will be completely safe.	The root of Jesse will establish His kingdom on the Holy Mountain. He will gather Israel for the second time from the ends of the earth to make her the premiere nation of the world living on the Promised Land from the Euphrates to the Nile in peace. They will have no enemies and they will praise the Lord in His kingdom.
	Isa. 8:5-8	Isa. 8:9-20	Isa. 9:1-7	Isa. 9:8-16	Isa. 9:17 – 10:2	Isa. 10:3-34	Isa. 11:1-12:6

Figure 18: Vision 6

The Lord's words to Isaiah begin with Israel's rejection of the life He has provided her in the Northern Kingdom.

Near Future

Call for Assyria's Abundant Waters

Isaiah 8:5 And again the LORD spoke to me further, saying, ⁶ "Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah, And rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah; ⁷ "Now therefore, behold, the Lord is about to bring on them the strong and abundant waters of the Euphrates, Even the king of Assyria and all his glory; And it will rise up over all its channels and go over all its banks. ⁸ "Then it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass through, It will reach even to the neck; and the spread of its wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.

Shiloah means being sent and it is the name of a place near Gihon Springs in the Southern Kingdom just outside Jerusalem. At the end of King David's life, when one of his sons claimed the throne, Zadok, Nathan and Benaiah took Solomon to Shiloah by Gihon Spring

and anointed him as the new king in David's place.²⁰ When Ahaz, the current king dies, his son Hezekiah will build the Shiloah tunnel to divert water into Jerusalem as a safeguard against Aram and Assyria's threats. Long before, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had rejected the calm flowing waters of Shiloah, withdrawn from the United Kingdom and sought friendship with Aram instead of its cousins in the Southern Kingdom. Rather than relying on the waters provided by the Lord, the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom have put their trust in foreign kings to supply their needs. They feel comfortable with Rezin, the king of Aram and they trust Peka, their king. But this behavior has made the Lord angry. Because the Northern Kingdom rejected the waters of Shiloah, the Lord will call for a flood of water to come from Assyria and the Euphrates River. Shiloah's volume of water pales in comparison to the mighty Euphrates, just as the nation of Israel pales in comparison to the mighty Assyria. Sennacherib, the great monarch of Assyria, will march through Aram and the Northern Kingdom and around Judah to take Egypt and the surrounding smaller nations, but Judah will be safe because God is with her, Immanuel. The name Immanuel is not a reference to the Lord's birth but rather an indication of God's continued protection of the Southern Kingdom.

History/Present Day

Get Ready

Isaiah 8:9 "Be broken, O peoples, and be shattered; and give ear, all remote places of the earth. Gird yourselves, yet be shattered; Gird yourselves, yet be shattered."¹⁰
"Devise a plan but it will be thwarted; state a proposal, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

The Northern Kingdom has rebelled against the south. It has made plans to take Ahaz off the throne and put Tabeel there as a puppet king.²¹ Those plans will not come to pass; they will not be honored because the Lord has sided with the Southern Kingdom. Isaiah's words are a warning to the north to get ready for the Lord to shatter its endeavors.

History/Present Day

Not a Conspiracy but a Testimony

Isaiah 8:11 For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying,¹² "You are not to say, '*It is a conspiracy!*' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*."¹³ "It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread."¹⁴ "Then He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, *and* a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem."¹⁵ "And many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; they will even be snared and caught."¹⁶ Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.¹⁷ And I will wait for the LORD who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him.

The people of the Southern Kingdom must not fear the dangers emanating from the north and Assyria. Isaiah is told not to participate in or approve of the union to the north. Rather, he is to lead the Southern Kingdom to fear the Lord instead. Frankly, the worst enemies of Damascus and Samaria are their own two kings, Rezin and Peka, who are running headlong in rebellion against the Lord who tells Isaiah not to regard that union as holy. Only the Lord is holy and He is to be a source of dread and fear to the house of Rezin, Peka and the Southern Kingdom. All will stumble over Him; He will snare them all in their sin. Why

²⁰ 1 Kings 1:33-40

²¹ Isaiah 7:6

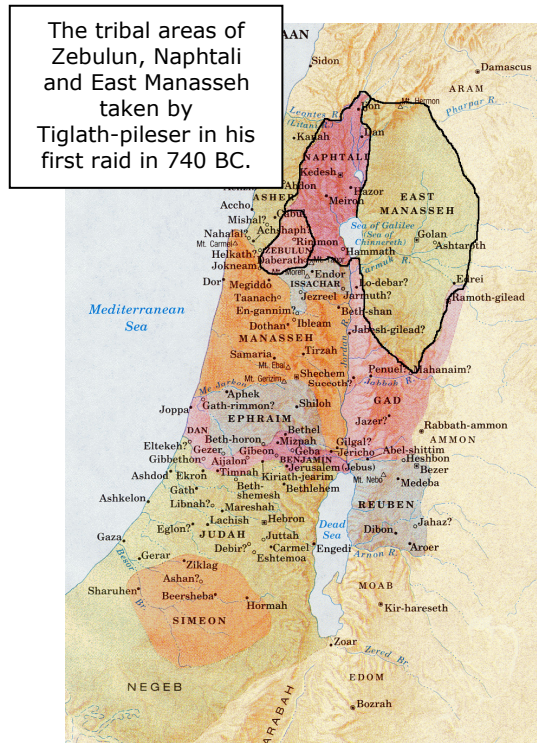
should the tribes of the Lord, who care for the temple of the Lord, where great knowledge of the Lord abounds, where the wisest and learned doctors of the Scripture reside, reject Immanuel – God with us? Tell all of this to My disciples, the Lord states. He says, "Bind up the testimony" Isaiah and wait. Wait for the Lord Who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob, the ten tribes of the north who call themselves Israel and worship the golden calf in Jacob's home town of Bethel. When he says that the Lord is hiding His face, Isaiah means He is removing His favor and full protection from them. All Isaiah can do is watch the events, proclaim the message and wait eagerly for the appearance of the Messiah.

History/Present Day

A Sign through the Children of Isaiah

Isaiah 8:18 Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Both Isaiah and his two sons live their lives as constant reminders of the Lord's promise to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Shear-jashub's name is a reminder to the nation that a remnant will return. Maher-shalal-hash-baz's name reminds Israel that the Lord has called for Assyria to make haste to the spoil and fall on the prey. The prey consists of Aram, its capital of Damascus and its king, Rezin. The spoil comprises the northeastern portion of the Promised Land whose capital is Samaria and whose king is Peka. The Lord of hosts still dwells on Mount Zion at this time, protecting the kings of the Southern Kingdom and fills the temple on Mount Moriah with His glory.



Map 6: Northern Tribes Taken in 740 BC

History/Present Day

A People with No Dawn

Isaiah 8:19 And when they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? *Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living?* ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

Why in the world would anyone consult a medium or a spiritist when they know and belong to the true and living God? Mediums and spiritists whisper and mutter nothing but lies. Those who whisper speak in secretive voices so only certain people can hear. Those who mutter grumble from the gut. Their words are sometimes inaudible and usually improper. Why consult the pretend gods of the dark world hoping to find hope among the lighted world of the living? They are to let the Word of God speak instead of those doomed to death to let the light of the Word shine down on the lies that they whisper and mutter and to compare their words with the Word of the Lord.

Near Future

A People Cursing their King and God

Isaiah 8:21 And they will pass through the land hard-pressed and famished, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will be enraged and curse their king and

their God as they face upward. ²² Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and *they will be* driven away into darkness.

Although the Lord has warned against seeking out the mediums and the spiritists and has challenged them to see what good they will do when all their words come to naught, the king of Israel seeks their wisdom and his people follow his example. Just wait, He warns, because the time is coming when the people of the ten tribes of Israel will be sorely distressed and destitute, their king will not be able to help because of his miserable council, his foolish decisions, and his worship of a gold-covered carving of wood. They all knew better. They all had the same opportunity to follow the Lord. They all heard the same message from Isaiah and all the godly men before him. They all will curse their king and the true God when they are lying on their backs and taking their last breaths. They will find no help from heaven because their hearts are not turned toward God. Their eyes will “look to the earth” for help but find nothing but distress, darkness, gloom, and without hope, they will journey deeper into the darkness.

Far Prophecy

People in Darkness will See a Great Light

Isaiah 9:1 But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. ² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ³ Thou shalt multiply the nation, Thou shalt increase their gladness; They will be glad in Thy presence as with the gladness of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For Thou shalt break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁵ For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, and cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

Thinking far into the future, the Lord allows Isaiah to prophesy past the coming destruction of the tribal areas of Zebulun, Naphtali and Manasseh which is the area around the Sea of Gennesareth and later called the Sea of Galilee. These areas will suffer in the first invasion of Assyria by Tiglath-pileser. Both Second Kings and First Chronicles record the suffering.

2 Kings 15:²⁹ In the days of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser king of Assyria came and captured Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali; and he carried them captive to Assyria.

1 Chronicles 5:²⁶ So the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul, king of Assyria, even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser king of Assyria, and he carried them away into exile, namely the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and brought them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and to the river of Gozan, to this day.

Despite their great anguish, many years later, during the ministry of the Messiah, these same areas will be among the first to experience the fulfillment of this prophecy. The light of the Lord Jesus will shine on those who live in those dark areas and they will see His great light. Three-quarters of the content of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke record the life and ministry of the Lord in and around the Sea of Galilee. The prophecy continues to speak of the Lord’s first coming to earth as a Child through His return to reign as King of kings.

Far Prophecy

A Child to be Born

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

The Birth

The people of the Lord will one day be blessed with a gift when they see the Child born in a manger.

The Government

The Child will hold the scepter and the sword as well as the key to everything as He rules over the world. Great burdens lie upon the shoulders of the leaders of every nation. This Child will take those burdens upon Himself willingly.

The Office

As the leader, the Child's qualities and nature permeate the kingdom. Throughout the ages He has counseled congregations, guided creation with His mighty hand from the dawn of eternity and He has provided peace in the midst of the storms of life for all who belong to Him.

The Kingdom

How long will this Child reign? His peaceful government will never end as He sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem established anew at the Lord's second coming.

The Zeal

This great and mighty work of God will be fulfilled because of the Father's own glory, to honor His Son and to provide a gift to His people.

Table 7: Scripture Fulfillment in Isaiah – Chapter 8:5- 12:6

Partial Chart of Vision 6 – Chapters 8:5 through 9:7

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 8:5-8	<i>Near Future</i> The Lord will call for the waters of Assyria to run over Israel.	Fulfilled in 722 BC
Isa. 8:9-20	<i>History/Present Day</i> Cursing and hopeless, the Israelites must get ready for their exile because they have failed to see the signs and return to the Lord.	Fulfilled in 722BC
Isa. 9:1-7	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will see a great light when a wonderful Child is born.	Fulfilled in 4 BC through 30 AD and on to the 1,000 year reign of the Lord after Armageddon

The Prophecies of Isaiah ²²

Lesson 8

Vision 6 – Part 2

Summary of Vision 5

In vision five, the Lord tells Isaiah to use a large brass mirror as a tablet and write four words, Maher-shalal-hash-baz. He instructs Isaiah to have another child and name him Maher-shalal-hash-baz which means haste to the spoils and fall on the prey. He also tells Isaiah that before the boy can say father or mother, Assyria will begin its task assigned by the Lord. Vision five begins in 741 BC and ends in 740 BC.

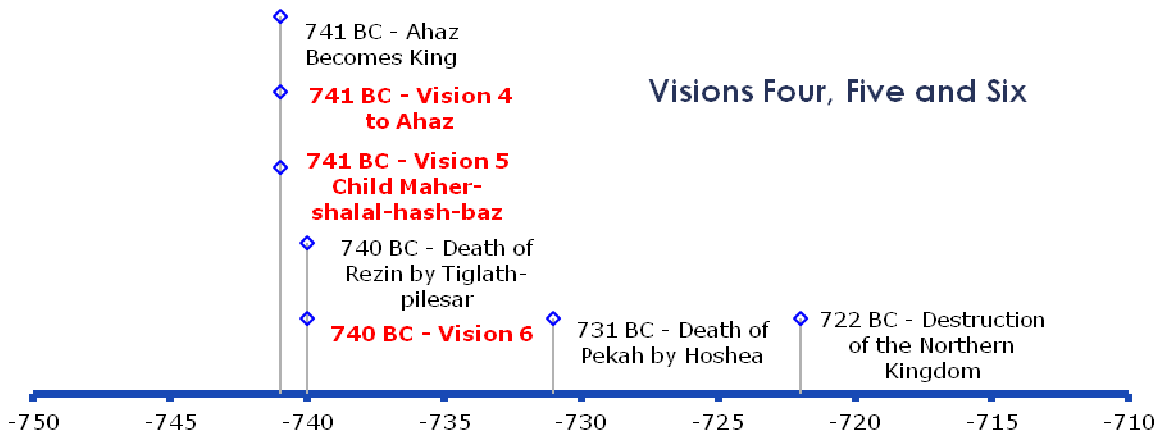


Figure 19: Visions Four, Five and Six

Summary of Vision 6 – Part 1

Isaiah delivers Vision Six to the Southern Kingdom shortly after the birth of Maher-shalal-hash-baz. It warns of the Lord's calling for Assyria to flood over Aram, the Northern Kingdom of Israel and all the smaller countries around the Southern Kingdom. The Southern Kingdom will be safe from this conflict because the presence of the Lord still resides among the people of Judah. The Lord will bring Assyria upon Aram and Israel because they trust in their kings who lead them away from His commands. When the battle occurs, they will curse their kings and God as they lie on the ground and die. But the south will not experience the doom because the God is with them – Immanuel. The Lord promises that those areas of the Northern Kingdom that are taken in the first raid will one day see a great light in the life of the Child Who will be the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace," and He will bring light in the darkness of both Jews and Gentiles. He will also come to establish His kingdom on earth, ruling from His great white throne and offering peace to all people.

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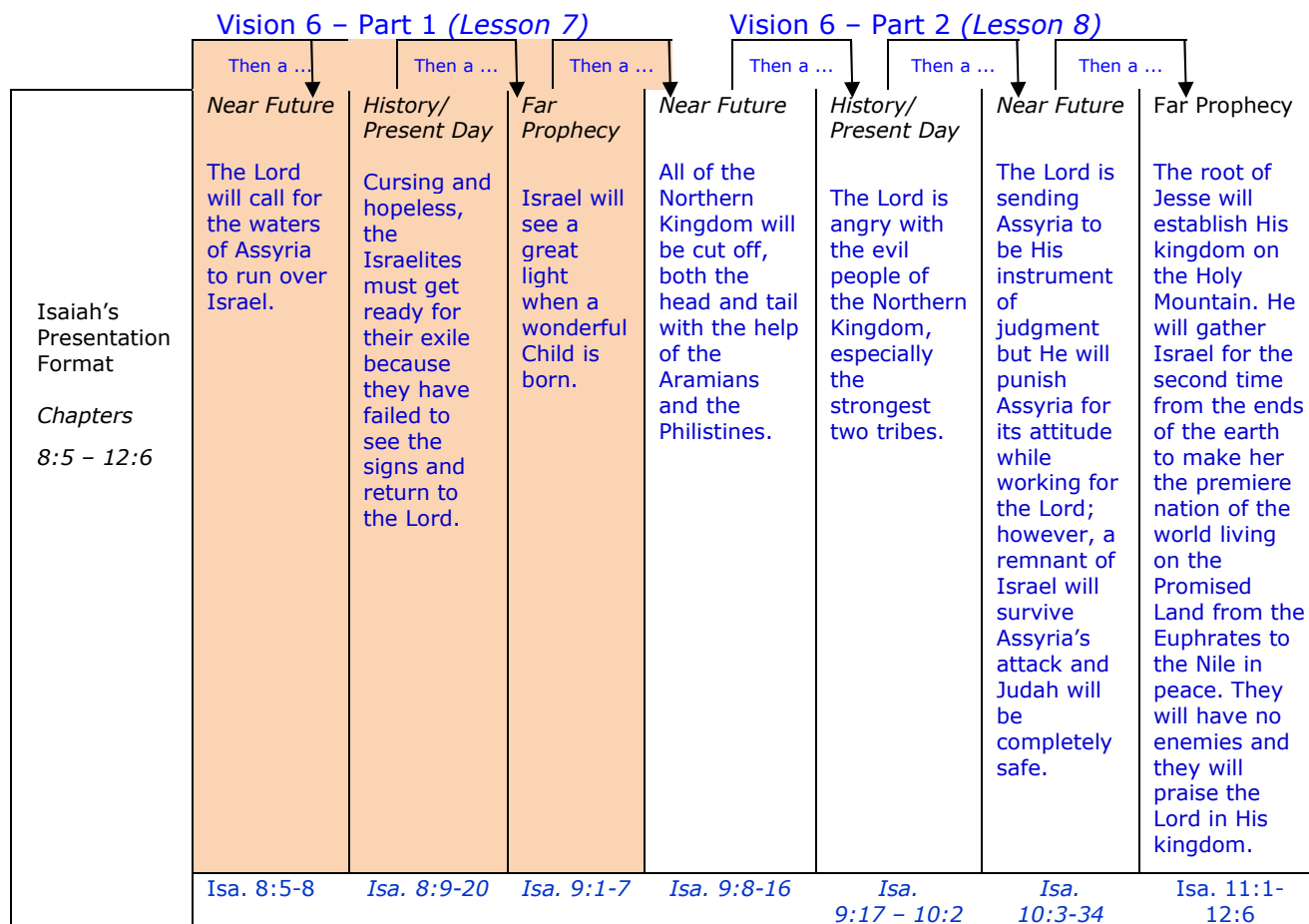


Figure 20: Vision Six Parts 1 and 2

Near Future

The Lord Falls on Israel Because of Their Arrogance

Isaiah 9:8 The Lord sends a message against Jacob, And it falls on Israel. ⁹ And all the people know it, *That is*, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart: ¹⁰ "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, but we will replace *them* with cedars."

In this part of the prophecy, the message is against Jacob, "and it falls on Israel." The Lord changes Jacob's name to Israel in the following passage.

Genesis 32:27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ And he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

However, the Lord is not addressing the father of the nation; He is distinctly addressing the tribal area of Ephraim that contains the capital city of Samaria as Israel. Further, when He speaks against Jacob, the Lord is addressing the city of Bethel which Jacob the man founded and made his first home after returning from Mesopotamia with his family. Bethel is the religious center of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in its south and Dan occupies the same