

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 upon it. 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 to attack the Northern Kingdom. Vision five begins in 741 BC and ends in 740 BC.

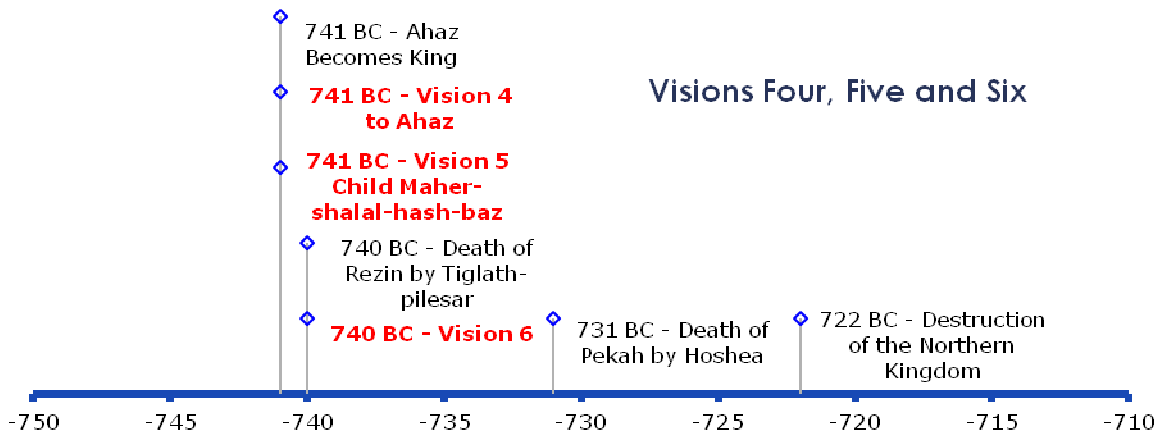


Figure 19: Visions Four, Five and Six

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 Lord still resides among the people of Judah and He will bring Assyria upon Aram and Israel because they trust in their kings instead of the Lord. 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 of their Lord Immanuel – God is with them. The Lord promises that those areas of the Northern Kingdom that will be 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 to 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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Vision 6 – Part 1 (Lesson 7)			Vision 6 – Part 2 (Lesson 8)				
	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	Then a ...	
Isaiah's Presentation Format Chapters 8:5 – 12:6	Near Future	History/ Present Day	Far Prophecy	Near Future	History/ Present Day	Near Future	Far Prophecy
	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 20: Vision Six Parts 1 and 2

Vision 6 – Part 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."

The "message is against Jacob" in this part of the prophecy, "and it falls on Israel." Remember, the Lord changed 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. In Isaiah 9:8, he is distinctly addressing Israel as the tribal area of Ephraim that contains the capital city of Samaria. Furthermore, when He speaks against Jacob, the Lord is addressing the city of Bethel which the man Jacob founded and established as his first permanent home after returning from Mesopotamia with his family. Bethel is the religious center in the southern part of the Northern Kingdom and Dan occupies the same status in the north. As the religious hub

near the capital city of Samaria, it is responsible for the faithfulness of all the ten northern tribes to the Lord. Instead of being contrite, its religious leaders are arrogant. The priests in Bethel say, "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." This pride of heart infuriates the Lord. Both the religious leaders and the political leaders of the Northern Kingdom are out of line and the Lord will not forgive them. The Lord tells Isaiah to repeat that He has heard the leaders say they will rebuild and they will be stronger than ever. The leaders of the Northern Kingdom never have the opportunity to rebuild as they wish. Ironically, the Lord uses the Assyrians to fulfill the prophecy. When the Northern Kingdom of Israel is destroyed by the Assyrians, 90% of the people die and most of the remaining 10% are exiled to Assyria, never to return to the land they had left. When the Assyrian Empire is overthrown by General Nebuchadnezzar in 612 BC, the northern exiles are assimilated into the Babylonian Empire. Six years later when Nebuchadnezzar inherits the throne, he takes the Southern Kingdom, the northern exiles welcome the southern exiles in Babylon. When King Cyrus the Great allows the exiles to return to the Promised Land, they do not return to the entire land grant. Rather, they populate just the southern area. Why? In the twenty years after the fall of the Northern Kingdom, the Assyrians devastate the entire land, mowing down all the vegetation including the prevalent sycamore figs and multiple vineyards. The weeds and thorn bushes overgrow the land making it difficult to grow anything. With the sycamore fig trees and vineyards gone, the poorest of the poor have only milk, butter and honey to eat. The sycamore figs had been the staple diet of the poor. It is the most inferior of the fig varieties with a skin that literally has to be punctured with sharp object to obtain the hard edible portion inside. They trees bear fruit several times a year. The Prophet Amos was employed as a caretaker of the sycamore figs before answering the Lord's call. These sycamore trees are not related to the American sycamore. The sycamore figs represent the Lord's attitude towards His people in the Northern Kingdom; they were inferior people, tough on the outside and rebellious on the inside. Both the inferior people and the inferior figs of the north are mowed down in the destruction by Assyria in 722 BC and the following decades. To secure Assyria's future in the Northern Kingdom, King Esarhaddon moves people from his empire and plants them in the tribal areas of Israel.

2 Kings 17:24 And the king of Assyria brought *men* from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sephar-vaim, and settled *them* in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.

Esarhaddon does not move Assyrian nationals to the region; rather, he moves Assyrian subservient Sumers or Babylonians of his empire into the Promised Land from Cuthuh, Avva (Hena), Hamath and Sephar-vaim (Sippar). The newly planted Sumers or Babylonians settle in the old Northern Kingdom and intermarry with the Jews left behind and begin to call themselves Samaritans. They are strong, much stronger than the Jews killed by the Assyrians. Throughout Scripture, the word cedar is used figuratively to allude to the strong conquerors of Assyria ,



Figure 21: Babylonian Populated Cities that King Esarhaddon of Assyria relocated to the Northern Kingdom

Egypt and the Ammonites. The 1,000 year kingdom of the Lord is compared to the towering cedar in its royal loftiness. Isaiah spoke of the Assyrian Empire as a cedar in his second vision.

Isaiah 2:13 And *it will be* against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up, Against all the oaks of Bashan,

Ezekiel will refer to Assyria as a cedar.

Ezekiel 31:3 Behold, Assyria was a cedar in Lebanon With beautiful branches and forest shade, And very high; And its top was among the clouds.

Six hundred years later, during the time of the Lord's ministry, the Jewish blood of the inhabitants of the Northern Kingdom is so diluted that the full-blooded Jews who returned from exile will have nothing to do with the Samaritans because they are considered unclean.

Near Future

Adversaries from Aram and Philistia

Isaiah 9:11 Therefore the LORD raises against them adversaries from Rezin, and spurs their enemies on, ¹²The Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west; and they devour Israel with gaping jaws. In *spite of* all this His anger does not turn away, and His hand is still stretched out. ¹³Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, nor do they seek the LORD of hosts.

Because of the arrogance of the Northern Kingdom, the Lord will bring adversaries from Rezin who is already dead, but many in his nation and government still live. They will nag Israel from the east while the ever-present Canaanite Philistines gnaw at them from just a few miles to their west. The death of Rezin and the constant pressure from Aram and Philistia do not foster a change of heart among the people of the Northern Kingdom.

Near Future

Head and Tail Cut Off

Isaiah 9:14 So the LORD cuts off head and tail from Israel, *both* palm branch and bulrush in a single day. ¹⁵The head is the elder and honorable man, and the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. ¹⁶For those who guide this people are leading *them* astray; and those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.

The palm branch is the mightiest and most noble plant of the Northern Kingdom and the bulrush is the weakest. The passage is clear, both the noble and the weak will be cut down, both the elder (leader) and the false teacher. They are responsible for the direction of the kingdom and they have failed.

History/Present Day

No Pleasure for the Lord with Orphans and Widows

Isaiah 9:17 Therefore the Lord does not take pleasure in their young men, nor does He have pity on their orphans or their widows; for every one of them is godless and an evildoer, and every mouth is speaking foolishness. In *spite of* all this His anger does not turn away, and His hand is still stretched out. ¹⁸For wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns; it even sets the thickets of the forest aflame, and they roll upward in a column of smoke. ¹⁹By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up, and the people are like fuel for the fire; no man spares his brother.

In every place in Scripture except for this passage, orphans and widows hold a special place in God's heart. The Northern Kingdom has had plenty of prophets to instruct the people and they have failed to worship the Lord. The corruption of the people is so ingrained that they will not turn to the Lord. Therefore, they will be consumed by the fury of the Lord.

History/Present Day

Evil of the Strongest Northern Tribes

Isaiah 9:20 And they slice off *what is* on the right hand but *still* are hungry, and they eat *what is* on the left hand but they are not satisfied; each of them eats the flesh of his own arm. ²¹ Manasseh *devours* Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, *and* together they are against Judah. In *spite of* all this His anger does not turn away, and His hand is still stretched out. **Isaiah 10:1** Woe to those who enact evil statutes, and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, ² So as to deprive the needy of justice, and rob the poor of My people of *their* rights, in order that widows may be their spoil, and that they may plunder the orphans.

Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh were born in Egypt. In the division of the Promised Land, Ephraim and Manasseh will receive land instead of Joseph and Levi. Thus, Joseph receives a double blessing in the land as promised. ²³ Because their leaders are brothers and nephews of the two largest tribes, they should be close, but they are not. The Lord warns the judges of Ephraim and Manasseh not to make and enforce unjust laws in order to take from the poor, but they ignore His command.

Near Future

His Hand is Stretched Out

Isaiah 10:3 Now what will you do in the day of punishment, and in the devastation which will come from afar? To whom will you flee for help? and where will you leave your wealth? ⁴ Nothing *remains* but to crouch among the captives or fall among the slain. In *spite of* all this His anger does not turn away, And His hand is still stretched out.

"What will you do?" the Lord asks. "To whom will you flee for help?" He continues. "Where will you leave your wealth?" The unjust oppressors cannot run and hide from the Lord; they cannot find one place on earth to obtain help or flee from His presence. His hand is outstretched against them.

Near Future

Woe to Assyria, God's Instrument

Isaiah 10:5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hands is My indignation, ⁶ I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury to capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets.

The Lord has called upon Assyria to deliver His wrath and fury against His people. If the Northern Kingdom fights Assyria, in essence, they are fighting against the Lord. However, the Lord sends a warning with His invitation when He says, "Woe to Assyria." Why?

Near Future

Assyria's Different Plan

Isaiah 10:7 Yet it does not so intend nor does it plan so in its heart, but rather it is its purpose to destroy, and to cut off many nations. ⁸ For it says, "Are not my princes all kings? ⁹ "Is not Calno like Carchemish, Or Hamath like Arpad, Or Samaria like

²³ The descendants of Levi do not receive land because they are the ministers to the other tribes. Furthermore, the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh comprise the largest population of the northern 10 tribes.

Damascus? ¹⁰ "As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols, whose graven images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, ¹¹ Shall I not do to Jerusalem and her images just as I have done to Samaria and her idols?"

Even though Assyria is God's instrument for His judgment against the Northern Kingdom, it fails to recognize that it is the guest and God is Host. The kings of Assyria make their plans and execute them upon all the nations of the world, including the Northern Kingdom, believing they have the power within themselves to complete their self-ordained tasks and they refuse to recognize the Lord's part in the plan. At this time in the story, the Assyrian king has already taken Calno, Carchemish, Hamath, Arpad and Damascus, all Aramian cities, causing him to question the difficulty of defeating Samaria, the capital of the Northern Kingdom. The idol-ridden Aramian cities had called out to their gods and Assyria defeated them. Why will the cities of Samaria and Jerusalem, which have fewer idols and gods, be more difficult to take? The Assyrian king simply desires to enlarge his empire and fails to recognize his place as the instrument of God to execute His will.

Near Future

Assyria's Punishment

Isaiah 10:12 So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, *He will say*, "I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness." ¹³ For he has said, "By the power of my hand and by my wisdom I did *this*, for I have understanding; and I removed the boundaries of the peoples, and plundered their treasures, and like a mighty man I brought down *their* inhabitants, ¹⁴ And my hand reached to the riches of the peoples like a nest, and as one gathers abandoned eggs, I gathered all the earth; and there was not one that flapped its wing or opened *its* beak or chirped."

Because of the blasphemy and arrogance of Assyria, the Lord will punish her when He has finished "all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem." Assyria truly believes that she will take Jerusalem in her efforts, but that is not part of the Lord's plan. The king of Assyria will march up to the gates of the great holy city and then return to Nineveh without completing his plans. Who is in charge of this judgment? The Lord. It is His master plan, not Assyria's.

Near Future

The Axe or the Man

Isaiah 10:15 Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? *That would be* like a club wielding those who lift it, *or* like a rod lifting *him who* is not wood.

The axe, saw, club and rod have no power without a man to manipulate them. In this case, Assyria has no power unless the Lord manipulates her.

Near Future

Assyria's Doom

Isaiah 10:16 Therefore the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will send a wasting disease among his stout warriors; and under his glory a fire will be kindled like a burning flame. ¹⁷ And the light of Israel will become a fire and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and his briars in a single day. ¹⁸ And He will destroy the glory of his forest and of his fruitful garden, both soul and body; and it will be as when a sick man wastes away. ¹⁹ And the rest of the trees of his forest will be so small in number that a child could write them down.

When the Lord is finished with Assyria, He will send a disease that will strip all the self-made glory from the empire and reduce its greatness to the point where a small child can count its remnant. It will start in 712 BC after Shalmaneser's death.²⁴

When Shalmaneser dies in 712 BC, Sennacherib becomes king of Assyria. He attacks the Southern Kingdom and captures some of the cities. Hezekiah bends to Sennacherib's demands and pays him 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold which He has stolen from the temple.

After receiving the payment from Hezekiah, Sennacherib still moves to attack Jerusalem. Eliakim, the priest meets Sennacherib at the tunnel of the upper pool. Sennacherib mocks Hezekiah and his God, thinking that because Hezekiah has taken down all the altars, his God will not help him. By this time, the Ethiopian king of Egypt is just a limp reed and cannot help Hezekiah fight Sennacherib. Sennacherib claims that God has sent him to capture Jerusalem. He tells the people not to listen to Hezekiah's promises that God will save them.

When Eliakim tells Hezekiah what Sennacherib has said, Hezekiah enters the temple and cries out to the Lord. He sends Eliakim and others to speak with Isaiah. Isaiah tells them not to be afraid because the Lord will strike Sennacherib and defend the city, not allowing Sennacherib to fire a single arrow. That night the angel of the Lord kills 185,000 Assyrians. Sennacherib returns to live in Nineveh, only to be killed by Adrammelech and Sharezer. His son, Esarhaddon, becomes King of Assyria. During this series of troubling events, Hezekiah writes two songs which are included in the Jewish Book of Hymns that we call Psalms.²⁵

Near Future

Israel Freed Forever from Assyria

Isaiah 10:20 Now it will come about in that day that the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

In 740 BC, vision six promises that the 10% remnant will never again rely on Assyria but will be protected by the Lord because now they trust in Him.

Near Future

Only a Remnant Will Survive

Isaiah 10:21 A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.²² For though your people, O Israel, may be like the sand of the sea, *only* a remnant within them will return; a destruction is determined, overflowing with righteousness.²³ For a complete destruction, one that is decreed, the Lord GOD of hosts will execute in the midst of the whole land.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelites from the Northern Kingdom will die in the complete destruction of the land, but, once again, the Lord promises that a remnant of those northern 10 tribes will be saved and return to the Promised Land one day. A remnant refers to the leftovers, and in this case, the people who are not killed in the raid. What is the percentage of the remnant throughout the Scriptures? Amos, Hosea and Isaiah all agree that it will be one out of every ten.

²⁴ 2 Kings 18 - 19; 2 Chronicles 32 - 33; Isaiah 36 - 37; Psalm 43 - 49; Psalm 66; Psalm 67; Psalm 77; Psalm 116; Psalm 119 - 123; Psalm 125 - 126; Psalm 128 - 130; Psalm 132

²⁵ Psalm 78; Psalm 81

Near Future

Zion Safe from Assyria

Isaiah 10:24 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts, "O My people who dwell in Zion, do not fear the Assyrian who strikes you with the rod and lifts up his staff against you, the way Egypt *did*. ²⁵ "For in a very little while My indignation *against you* will be spent, and My anger *will be directed* to their destruction."

The Lord promises the Southern Kingdom that He will soon be through with Assyria and bring judgment on it; Assyria will not harm the south.

Near Future

Israel's Yoke Broken

Isaiah 10:26 And the LORD of hosts will arouse a scourge against him like the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Oreb; and His staff will be over the sea, and He will lift it up the way *He did* in Egypt. ²⁷ So it will be in that day, that his burden will be removed from your shoulders and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be broken because of fatness.

In Judges 7, Gideon divides his 300 men into three groups and arms them with trumpets and empty pitchers. He places torches in the pitchers and tells them to follow him and copy his actions. During the Medianites' third watch, all the groups are in position. Gideon breaks the pitcher, holds the torch in his right hand, screams "a sword for the Lord and Gideon," and blows the trump. ²⁶ All of his men do the same, each standing in his place around the Midian camp. The Lord sends a sword against the camp and as they begin to kill each other, many run from the camp. Gideon sends the tribe to pursue the Midianites and catch the leaders. They kill Oreb and Zeeb and take their heads to Gideon.

In Exodus 14, the people were fearful when they saw Pharaoh coming. The pillar of fire moved between them and the Egyptians but the people complained because they were hemmed in between the fire and the sea. Moses stretched out his hands over the sea and the wind began to blow the water apart, creating a dry path for a crossing. By daybreak, all the Israelites had crossed to the other side and the Lord removed the pillar of fire which had held back the Egyptians. The Egyptians followed, but in the midst of the sea, the Lord removed the wind and the waters drowned the entire army of Pharaoh.

Just as with the Midianites and the Egyptians, the Lord will destroy the power of the Assyrian king for his attempt to take over the Southern Kingdom.

Near Future

March of Assyria to Nob

Isaiah 10:28 He has come against Aiath, He has passed through Migron; at Michmash he deposited his baggage. ²⁹ They have gone through the pass, *saying*, "Geba will be our lodging place." Ramah is terrified, and Gibeah of Saul has fled away. ³⁰ Cry aloud with your voice, O daughter of Gallim! Pay attention, Laishah *and* wretched Anathoth! ³¹ Madmenah has fled. The inhabitants of Gebim have sought refuge. ³² Yet today he will halt at Nob; He shakes his fist at the mountain of the



Figure 22: Prophecy of the Assyrian March to Nob by Sennacherib in 712 BC

²⁶ Judges 7:18

daughter of Zion, the hill of Jerusalem.

Twenty-eight years before the trip occurs, the Lord prophesies the route of the Assyrian King on his way to take the Southern Kingdom. At Nob, he can go no further. He can only shake his fist at the holy city's walls. Sennacherib is stopped at Nob which is across the Kidron Valley, just a few hundred feet north of the Mount of Olives, almost equal in distance from the northeastern corner of Jerusalem's city wall.

Near Future

Cedars Cut Down

Isaiah 10:33 Behold, the Lord, the GOD of hosts, will lop off the boughs with a terrible crash; those also who are tall in stature will be cut down, and those who are lofty will be abased. ³⁴ And He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an iron axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One.

At Nob, the Lord lops off the boughs of Sennacherib, beginning the destruction of his forest by killing 185,000 Assyrians during the night. The Lord's iron axe continues to diminish Assyria's strength until 612 BC when General Nebuchadnezzar destroys its capital city of Nineveh and then marches west, destroying the strength of the Assyrian Empire and physically cutting down all the trees and forests in his way, including all of the cedars of Lebanon. Today, only a few of those mighty trees survive from that period, certainly not a full forest of cedars like those that once stood north of the Promised Land.

Far Prophecy

Root of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist. ⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze; their young will lie down together; and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.

Projecting far into the future, the Lord prophesies that His appearance will eventually lead to the establishment of His 1,000 year reign on earth coming through the line of Jesse and his son David. His name will be Jesus and He will judge the hearts of men, not their outward actions. Later, He will reappear and rid the earth of evil for a time, striking His enemies with His Words. Then all the kingdoms of the world, both human and animal will live in peace. All the people of the world will know the Lord; His home in Jerusalem will be a glorious place.

Far Prophecy

Second Gathering of Israel

Isaiah 11:11 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. ¹² And He will lift up a standard for the nations, and will assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

When the Lord arrives to set up His 1,000 year kingdom, He will call for all the remnant of the Jews from all over the world to return to the land a second time. The first time refers to the release of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity that occurs in 536 BC when Cyrus the Great takes over the Babylonian Empire for the Medes and Persians. The return of the first remnant will occur 204 years after this sixth prophecy. The second return is yet to occur. However, this question comes to our mind. When did the second exile or dispersion take place? It began with the stoning of Stephen in Jerusalem by Saul of Tarsus shortly before 34 AD and continued through the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD and then was repeated in smaller events for another hundred years.

Why does the prophecy mention "Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea" if Cyrus the Great is going to release the exiles in 536 BC? The answer is simple. Not all the Jews who were exiled at different times in Israel's history will choose to return to the Promised Land in 536 BC. By the time of the Lord's earthly ministry in 27 – 30 AD, the largest population of Jews in the world outside Israel resides in Babylon, the remnant of the leftovers who do not choose to leave their established homes to return to the uncertain Promised Land. Peter mentions them in one of his letters.

1 Peter 5:¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and so does my son, Mark.

Far Prophecy

Israel's Peace and Promised Land

Isaiah 11:13 Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. ¹⁴ And they will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; together they will plunder the sons of the east; they will possess Edom and Moab; and the sons of Ammon will be subject to them.

When the Lord returns to set up His kingdom, the combined 12 tribes of Israel will never fight each other again. Together, they will attack their enemies, Philistia, Edom, Moab and Ammon, taking their lands and cities and inhabiting them as their own. The Philistines, Edomites and Moabites will be killed; the Ammonites will become servants of the nation of Israel.

Far Prophecy

Destruction of Enemies

Isaiah 11:15 And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; And He will wave His hand over the river with His scorching wind; and He will strike it into seven streams, And make *men* walk over dry-shod. ¹⁶ And there will be a highway from Assyria For the remnant of His people who will be left, just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.

When the Lord comes, He will "destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt" or the Red Sea. The Red Sea and its two tributaries act as barriers between Egypt, Ethiopia, the Arabian

Peninsula and the land of Midian. The Red Sea will be destroyed to enable a great highway to extend from the Tigris River to the Nile in Egypt. Because Abraham had walked over all this land, the Lord promised it to his descendants. It will provide a way to journey from Egypt through Jerusalem and into the Mesopotamian Valley of Abraham's home town of Ur in Babylon. From all the nations, the remnant of Israel will return to their Promised Land on a dry road, unhampered by rivers and waterways.

Far Prophecy

Israel's Praise for the Lord

Isaiah 12:1 Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to Thee, O LORD; For although Thou wast angry with me, Thine anger is turned away, and Thou dost comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation." ³Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation. ⁴And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make *them* remember that His name is exalted." ⁵Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; let this be known throughout the earth. ⁶Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Finally, the Lord promises through Isaiah that the whole nation of Israel will be in a right relationship with Him in His 1,000 year kingdom. At that time, Israel will finally give the Lord the praise, glory and honor He deserves.

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

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
Isa. 9:8-16	<i>Near Future</i> All of the Northern Kingdom will be cut off, both the head and tail, with the help of the Aramians and the Philistines.	Fulfilled in 712 BC
Isa. 9:17 – 10:2	<i>History/Present Day</i> The Lord is angry with the evil people of the Northern Kingdom, especially the two strongest tribes.	Fulfilled in 722 BC
Isa. 10:3-34	<i>Near Future</i> 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.	Fulfilled in 722 BC
Isa. 11:1-12:6	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The root of Jesse will establish His kingdom on the Holy Mountain and He will gather Israel for the second time from the ends of the earth to make them the premiere nation of the world living on the Promised Land from the Euphrates to the Nile in peace with no enemies and praising the Lord in His kingdom.	Fulfilled after the Day of the Lord, after Armageddon