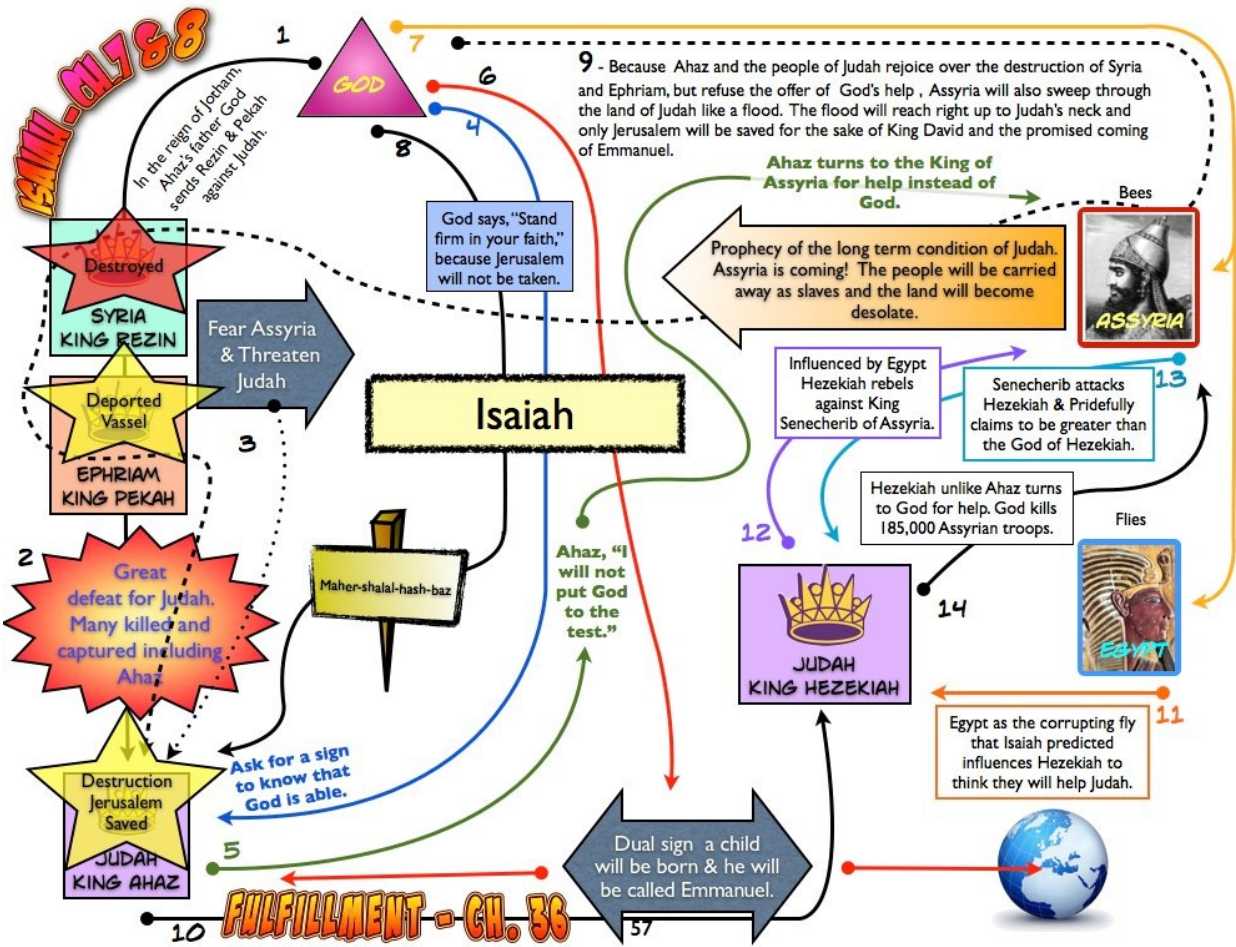


1. In 2 kings 15. 32-38 we learn that Ahaz's father did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but he failed to remove the high places and stop the idol worship in Judah. God despised this so He sent Rezin king of Syria and Pekah king of Ephriam against Judah, as a punishment and warning for the people to stop the idol worship.

2. 7th ch. - It appears that God has allowed Syria and Ephriam to have success in punishing Judah because 2 Chr. 28. 5-8 records a great defeat where ,Ahaz was captured, Ahaz's son, and high court officials were killed along with 120,000 soldiers in Judah's army, and 200,000 of Judah's people were taken as slaves. The people and Ahaz are let go after Oded the prophet and some righteous men in Ephriam stood against what Pekah & Rezin had done. God is angry and will punish Rezin & Pekah for their excess.

3. Pekah & Rezin worried about Assyria and want the resources of Judah to make them stronger. Ahaz and the people of Judah are shaking in fear that Jerusalem will be destroyed and Judah divided between Ephriam & Syria.

4. God sends a message to Ahaz. Stand firm in your faith, Pekah and Rezin will never take Jerusalem. God also tells Ahaz that he can ask for any sign he wants to prove that God is able to do what He says.
5. Ahaz's believes God is just like all the other gods he worships, and so he refuses Isaiah, saying Moses told them not to "Test the Lord." Ahaz is trying to appear to follow God and not give up his idols, so he misuses Moses words. Ahaz then goes to the king of Assyria for help.
6. God gives a sign to Ahaz anyway. This sign is stunning in its scope and implications. God is declaring that Satan's work in this world will never thwart God's purposes and promises. This sign has a dual meaning. Ahaz is told a child will be born to a woman he knows and before the child is accountable Syria and Ephriam will be laid waste, but it also is cosmic because it speaks of Jesus Christ. God's promise to David of an everlasting throne will be fulfilled in Jesus, but presently Ahaz is benefiting because God is keeping the House of David from being destroyed.



7. Chapter 7 ends with a warning that the sins of Judah are to be punished. Assyria will come. They and Egypt will settle over the land, Assyria like bees and Egypt like flies. Assyria will destroy Syria, and shatter Samaria, but it will not end there. God will also punish Judah by making Judah slaves to Assyria and devastating the land. The people left in Judah will no longer farm, they will become shepherds.

8. God sends a second sign. The sign is to convey God's just actions against Damascus, Syria's capital, and Samaria, Ephriam's capital. Isaiah is told to post a sign with one word, Maher-shalal-hash-baz. (Swift to Plunder Swift to Spoil)

9. Since Ahaz refused God's help and has turned to the King of Assyria for help, Judah is blind and makes a mistake. They rejoice over God's prophesied actions against Damascus and Samaria. This rejoicing is hypocritical because their own sins are as great as the people whom God is punishing. God says Assyria will also sweep through Judah and only Jerusalem will be saved. Judah's wealth will be taken to pay God's hireling, Assyria. In ch 7 God said Assyria will make the people of Judah as slaves, and the land will become wild. All these prophecies will take place before Isaiah's son, who was just born, learns to say, "My father and my mother." God says, do whatever you want, make any plans, nothing will save you. You will be shattered.

10. Kings 16, 2 Chronicles 28 and in the 36th chapter of Isaiah describe the fulfillment of these prophecies. Ahaz's reign was a complete disaster. He never got help from Assyria, only trouble and in all of this he never turned to

God. He tried to appease the King of Assyria by defiling the temple of God. When that didn't work he closed the temple, set up alters on every street corner of Jerusalem, and began worshipping the gods of Damascus. Ahaz died and his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah turned back to God and tore down his father's idols and alters. He reopened the temple and worshiped God properly. He pleased God.

11. Hezekiah, was still suffering under the thumb of Assyria. He had inherited the political mess his sinful father created. Isaiah had prophesied that Egypt would also be a problem for Judah, and in Hezekiah's reign the prophecy was fulfilled.
12. Hezekiah allowed himself to be influenced by Egypt into thinking he could rebel against Assyria. Egypt's false friendship and support like flies infested the land by giving Hezekiah a false hope that he could break away from Assyria.
13. When Hezekiah rebelled against Assyria, their new king Senecherib invaded Judah capturing the city of Lachish. Hezekiah, realized his mistake and tried to sue for peace with Senecherib by paying tribute. It didn't work and though the tribute was paid, Senecherib attacked Jerusalem. Senecherib sent a message to Hezekiah, that his position was hopeless, Egypt would never come to his aid. Senecherib, then blasphemed God by saying God sent him and he would destroy Hezekiah's God just as he had destroyed the gods of other people he had conquered. Hezekiah and Isaiah prayed to God and told Him of Senecherib's blasphemous boasts.
14. That very night the Angel of the Lord slew 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, with their officers and generals. In the morning only dead bodies lay on the ground. Senecherib withdrew to Nineveh and never returned. He was murdered by his own sons while worshipping in the temple of his false god Nishroc. It was a fitting end for a blasphemer, and God delivered Jerusalem just as he promised.