

Isaiah 17

Prophecy Concerning Damascus & Ephraim

March 13, 2022

INTRO: Isaiah moves now to oracles and burdens of several nations who have aligned themselves with one another and plan the overthrow of Judah and Jerusalem. In chapter seventeen Isaiah brings a word from God concerning Damascus (capitol of Syria) and Ephraim (a tribe of the Northern Kingdom rebellious to God and arrayed against Judah in the South. James Burton Coffman, on Isaiah in the Major Prophets Series, divides chapter seventeen into 4 sections which we will use in our analysis:

I. Isaiah 17:1-6—Damascus and its partner Ephraim

- A. Damascus is the capitol city of Syria to the Northeast of Judah
- B. Ephraim is one of the tribes of Israel to the Southwest of Judah which has aligned itself with Syria and against Judah
- C. As these nations move against Jerusalem, in the days of King Hezekiah, God will deal with them and bring them to utter ruin (see the destruction prophesied in Isaiah 17:1-6)

II. Isaiah 17:7-8—Revival in the Northern Kingdom (Israel & Ephraim)

- A. There will be a brief revival of a remnant which turns back to God
- B. They will abandon the false altars, the Asherim, and the incense stands and . . .
- C. They will look to the Holy One of Israel, *their* Maker

III. Isaiah 17:9-11—The Foolishness of Idolatry

- A. Israel in the main (Ephraim) will be like forsaken places
- B. They have forgotten the God of their salvation, their Rock of refuge
- C. Their idolatrous efforts will turn to ruin in a day of sickness and incurable pain

IV. Isaiah 17:12-14—The Utter Destruction of the Armies Against Judah

- A. They will roar and rumble like waves in a storm against Judah
- B. But God will rebuke them and chase them away like chaff before the wind
- C. The armies of the nations against Judah will be destroyed overnight
- D. Assyria, aligned with Israel (Ephraim) camped around Jerusalem was literally destroyed overnight and retreated in utter defeat. In the seige of Sennacherib against Jerusalem in 701BC 186,000 soldiers mysteriously died overnight.

CONC: This is a message of encouragement to Hezekiah, as he prayed before the Lord, to rest in God and put his trust in Him alone. Make no alliance with any worldly powers but depend solely upon God to deliver Jerusalem and Judah. God proved this to be true (see 2 Chronicles 29-32, esp 32:20)

How big is your God? What do you believe He can do? Do you believe in miraculous deliverance? When all are arrayed against you, do you depend on the Lord your God for salvation; is He your Rock? Seek Him while He may be found.