THE PERIL IN JUDAH

Part 2

**DATE: 1/25/2017 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 7:5-9b**

**INTRODUCTION**

Whereas the preceding chapters of Isaiah looked into the distant future, the prophecy of this chapter is closer in time

The prophet used the contemporary political trouble between Judah, the Syrians, and the Northern Kingdom

as the backdrop for one of the greatest prophecies in the Old Testament – **v. 14**

We have in that verse the great prophecy of the Virgin Birth of the Messiah

The prophecy then shifts back to the future invasion of Judah by the Assyrians

As we continue to look at **Isaiah 7**, tonight we will be in **vs. 5-9**

Last time we left off with Isaiah and his son being sent to King Ahaz

We looked at 3 thoughts in those first 4 verses

**AN UNHEALTHY “ALLIANCE”**

**THE KING’S “ALARM AND ANXIETY”**

**ISAIAH’S “ASSIGNMENT”**

Tonight, I’d like to begin another 3 thoughts

Don’t know how far we will get, but…

Again, let’s think on this thought

**The Peril in Judah – Pt. 2**

We also live in perilous times – **II Tim. 3:1 -**

***“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come”***

Let’s stand to read **vs. 5-9** together

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “AIM” OF THE ENEMY – vs. 5, 6**

***“Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying,” “Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, even the son of Tabeal:”***

Let’s look back at **v. 4** for a minute, there it says …

***“Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah...”***

Now **v. 5** begins with ***“because”*** (for the reason, or seeing that)

The Bible now reveals the reason why God said what He did in **v. 4**

**A. The Purpose**

**1.** For Judah

The Purpose of this Fierce Alliance against the tribe of Judah was to invade and vex the nation

The word ***“vex”*** means *to cause a sickening dread or to terrorize, (dread -frightened, fearful, anxious, alarmed)*

They wanted to vent their hate upon the people of Judah by breaching the walls of Jerusalem and replace the king on the throne

They wanted to take control of the southern kingdom and put the son of Tabeal on the throne

**2.** For the Believer

Our Enemy is an unseen one / the devil

And he still wants to do the same kinda things in our lives

**I Peter 5:8 –** ***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

He wants us to live in fear

He wants to attack and destroy us

He wants to take control of our hearts and establish his rule over us

The Bible calls them ***“strong holds”*** in **II Cor. 10:4**

It is interesting to note that the name ***“Tabeal”*** means *good for nothing*

That is exactly what Satan wants to do with our testimony and influence for Christ

He wants our lives for the Lord to be good for nothing, a total waste

If you neglect your relationship with God, that is what is going to happen

You will waste your life away and miss out on the wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord

**B. The Problem**

**1.** For Judah

These two kings wanted to Substitute the throne with their own king

Unfortunately, King Ahaz has already made a Substitution of his own

He had put his reliance and security in the King of Assyria, instead of God

We already looked at that in **II Kings 16:5, 7-9**

Instead of looking to God, Ahaz sought the protection of Assyria from his enemies

That decision would later prove to be a fatal mistake

**2.** For the Believer

The Aim of the Enemy is for us to Substitute our lives with other things so that the Lord is crowded out

Unfortunately, Believers do this and wonder why they have no power or joy

The answer is the fact that the Lord is not first in their lives

If we are not careful, we can fall into the pattern of Substituting Things for God

People under conviction, whether saved or lost, will try to use Substitution to forget the Lord dealing with them

People cram their schedules full of activities that don’t include God

If you’re not careful, your job, family, sports, hobbies, the person you are dating, or even your spouse can be a substitute for the Lord

**Deuteronomy 32:17, 18 – *“They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, …***

***… to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not” “Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee”***

**Judges 3:7 – *“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgat the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves”***

What is so dangerous about the Substitutes that we use in place of the Lord?

It’s the fact that they can come back to haunt our lives

Men's Substitutes for God are Dangerous, Domineering, and Destructive

The Northern Kingdom willingly choose idolatry, and it literally destroyed them

So often, the things we chose are the very things that bring about our destruction!

When people get into trouble today, most choose unbiblical means to help them cope with their problems, only to be weakened and destroyed

If a nation chooses prosperity, not righteousness …

The Prosperity (success) of fools will destroy that nation

**Proverbs 1:32 *– “For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, …***

***… and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them”***

Judah Substituted Assyria for God and Assyria later destroyed Israel

At the time of Christ, Israel was yoked up with Rome

That came back to bite them as well

Any Substitute that we make for the Lord in our lives is going to be weak, helpless, and uncertain when it comes to solving our problems or meeting our needs

Like Israel, our Substitutes for God will only make matters worse

Men tend to think they know more than God when it comes to finding solutions, satisfaction, security, peace, or happiness, yet; that never seems to happen

People will turn or trust in other things because they reject God's authority over their lives

Their unbelief motivates them to turn to things for help other than the Lord because they don't know Him at all, they are spiritually blind, or they know who He is, but will not submit to His Authority over their lives

Whatever the case, their Security is uncertain and their Substitutes are mute and powerless

Society has so many Substitutes for God

The Bible provides for us a menu of things …

… that people use as Substitutes for the Lord

-- Things such as religious objects or false gods

In **I Sam. 4:3-6, 10**, Israel substituted the Ark for God's power when they battled the Philistines and found out that was a big mistake

How about the brass serpent on the pole

**II Kings 18:4 *– “He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan”***

-- We Substitute Things like Foreign Nations

Instead of looking to the LORD, Israel turned to both Assyria and Egypt for help, only to find out later what a big mistake it was

**Isaiah 30:2, 3; 31:1**

The answer today to the world's problems is not the United Nations

-- We Substitute Individuals such as government leaders and politicians

Don't look to the government or its leaders to meet your needs, Look to the Lord

**Psalm 118:8, 9 – *“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man”***

***“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes”***

-- We Substitute our Wealth and Money

Many people have made money more important than the Lord

So many people are out of church because their jobs require them to work

They get out of church because church does not pay the bills

Getting away from God is not worth it

And Money will not solve your problems

In fact, we will find that it can create more problems if we are not careful

It is limited on what it can do for a person and should never be a Substitute for God

Money can buy medicine, but not health

Money can buy a house, but not a home

Money can buy companionship, but not friends

Money can buy entertainment, but not happiness

Money can buy a bed, but not sleep

Money can buy the good life, but not eternal life

**I Timothy 6:17 – *“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;”***

-- We Substitute our own Schemes, Plans, and Ways

**Hosea 10:13 – *“Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men”***

Some folks feel they just don’t need God

They have everything under control and they are their own masters

They believe they can scheme their way out of anything

The unbeliever, when he finds himself lost in sin, usually at first thinks - *I’ll just make myself better*

He reasons that his sin isn’t so bad, that it will be overlooked, and that he will have rest for his soul and a home in Heaven if he is a good person

Beloved, the cures of men for sin are helpless Substitutes

All that man can do apart from faith in the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ is utterly in vain

-- We Substitute Weapons

**Psalm 20:7 *–“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God”***

Our security is not in the strength of our weapons or personal protection, but in the Lord

Let me do a little probing here

As you look at your life, are there any Substitutes you are making for the Lord to save you, to make you happy, or secure?

Is there anything or anyone more important than the Lord in your life?

If so, don't be surprised if your Substitutes become your undoing

That which can be touched, can be taken away

Put your trust in the Lord and live for Him, lest the moths of God's chastisement eat away at your blessings

**Matthew 6:19, 20 – *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:” “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”***

**THE “AIM” OF THE ENEMY**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. THE “ASSURANCE” FROM GOD – vs. 7-9a**

***“Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass” “For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore (60) and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people” “And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son …”***

I’m so glad God doesn’t leave His people in the dark

But has been declaring the end from the beginning

**Isaiah 46:10, 11 *– “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure:” “Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth My counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it”***

And I’m glad that (with a little effort) I can know it

What Assurance that brings to my heart

**A. God’s Prophecies were fulfilled Then**

God wanted Ahaz to trust Him and assured the king that the plotting against Judah from the kings of Israel and Syria would not come to pass

Those kings were mere men that were like a match that would soon burn out (firebrands)

That is exactly what happened to Rezin and Pekah

Within two years, they were both dead

Isaiah also prophesied that Ephraim or the Northern Ten Tribes would be totally abolished within 65 years

***“within threescore (60) and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people***

This is exactly what happened

This prophecy was given in 734 B.C.

The nation of Assyria defeated Syria in the year 732 B.C., just two years later

Assyria invaded the Northern Tribes of Israel in 722 B.C.

At that time, many of the Jewish people were deported from Israel into other lands

Foreigners were brought into Samaria to settle the land

By replacing the people, this would break up the Jewish culture and Jewish leadership

Any revolt would be minimal with the leaders displaced into other lands where they would be unable to gain support from a foreign population

**II Kings 17:24 – *“And the king of Assyria brought men from Babylon, and from Cuthah, and from Ava, and from Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, …***

***… and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof”***

The foreigners, brought into Israel, intermarried with the few Jews that were left behind

The offspring of these intermarriages were called Samaritans

By 669 B.C., 65 years after Isaiah's prophecy, the nation of Israel no longer existed

The Northern kingdom was non-existent as was prophesied by God's man

**B. God’s Prophecies will be fulfilled One Day (for Sure)**

Beloved, let me add right here that the prophesies of God's Word are real and true

They are not to be taken lightly

Many have been fulfilled in the past, but many have yet to be fulfilled in the last days which we live in right now

The books of Daniel and Revelation especially, give us a glimpse into the future

They inform us of the prophecies about the return of Jesus Christ, the turbulent time of the seven-year tribulation period, world war 3, the rule of the Anti-Christ, the worldwide persecution of the Jews, the events that lead to the battle of Armageddon, and the 1000 yr. reign of Jesus Christ on earth

Prophecies concerning the destruction of the city of Damascus in **Isaiah 17** and the destruction of the Russian/Iranian/Turkish coalition that attacks Israel, are found in **Ezekiel 38 & 39**, have yet to be fulfilled

The millennial reign of Jesus Christ is described in the books of Isaiah and Revelation

Mark it down folks, Jesus is coming back soon

He will return as He promised and He will keep His Word

Are you ready if the Rapture of the saints happened today?

Maybe we should heed the words of the Apostle Paul

**I Thessalonians 4:16, 17 - *“... For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:” “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (even so comfort one another)***

**THE “AIM” OF THE ENEMY**

**THE “ASSURANCE” FROM GOD**

**III. THE “ADMONISHMENT” FROM ISAIAH - v. 9b**

***“... If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established”***

**A. Ahaz’s Problem**

**Admonish –** means *to rebuke or advise someone*

Don’t you just love the graciousness of the Lord?

God extends His Grace to Ahaz, just like He did for Cain, or anyone else for-that-matter

Isaiah warned the king that if he will not believe and trust in the Lord, he would not remain secure and would not last (**Gen. 4:7** - sin is at the door)

His destiny would be determined by his acceptance or rejection of God’s Word

Isaiah was hitting the nail on the head because this was Ahaz's problem

**B. Our Problem**

We all will have problems whether we serve the Lord or not

That is a part of life

But, there are many problems, however, that are created by our own unbelief

This was the problem in Israel and in Judah

Both of these kingdoms were relying upon pagan men instead of God for their security

Their Security, therefore became Insecurity

This is true for those who fail to put their security and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ

Your destiny in eternity is determined by what you do with Jesus Christ

Faith in Him leads to Heaven

Rejecting Christ leads to Hell

Don't put your security for your soul in anything other than the Lord Jesus Christ

Anything else is insecure

In fact, when we look in the Bible, we find out what is truly secure

Let’s look at a few examples and we’ll be done

**1.** The Scriptures are Secure

The Bible is inerrant, infallible, and inspired

**Psalm 19:7 – *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”***

**II Peter 1:19 – *“We have also a more sure Word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:”***

**2.** Our Salvation is Secure

**John 10:28 – *“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand”***

**I Peter 1:5 – *“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”***

**Jude 1 – *“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:”***

**Jude 24 – *“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy”***

**3.** Our Rewards are Secure

**Proverbs 11:18 – *“The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward”***

**4.** The Strength of the Lord is Secure

**Psalm 46:1 – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”***

**Psalm 125:1 – *“They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever”***

**5.** The Share of our Inheritance is Secure

**I Peter 1:3, 4 – *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”***

When we put our security in the Word of the Lord, we have something that cannot be taken away or lost

Where are you placing your security?

**CONCLUSION**

**THE “AIM” OF THE ENEMY**

**THE “ASSURANCE” FROM GOD**

**THE “ADMONISHMENT” FROM ISAIAH**

We have to leave off here for now, but we will pick up again next time in Isaiah chapter **7: 10-25**

Where we will look into that Glorious verse about the coming of our Saviour