

**Isaiah**

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**Four  
Pictures Of  
Trouble**

**Isaiah 7:18-25**

**Lesson Fourteen**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## Four Pictures of Trouble

The last part of chapter seven is a picture, actually four pictures, of what terrible things are going to happen to Judah because of their unbelief and the ungodly policies and practices of Ahaz. Read Isaiah 7:18-25.

The first two pictures show what will happen when Judah is invaded by the Assyrians. The third and fourth pictures show what will be the result of the invasion. These pictures tell us that God is not going to be ignored by His own people, and that they must face the consequences of their sin.

If Ahaz had listened to Isaiah, God's messenger, and had humbly ask God for deliverance and guidance, the rest of the words we have here would never have been written. However, Ahaz was not humble and refused to call out to God.

As a result, these four pictures make it very clear that bad things are ahead for Judah. First, God is going to whistle for swarms of insects. From outside Judah will come what will seem like clouds of flies and bees. When a swarm of insects invades a place, they often eat everything in sight. The invading armies will seem more like swarms than military companies. They will seem like they are everywhere. There will be no hiding from them.

The second picture is even more fearsome. Isaiah said that God will use a razor...referring to the king of Assyria. This razor will be a sharp blade. Its main purpose is for cutting or stabbing. But it is also sharp enough to shave the hair off the head, the face and the body. This shaving will be embarrassing for three reasons:

First, Judah was naked. There will be nothing to cover up their bodies...their national secrets.

Second, they will be exposed. All their enemies will see them as fair game, unprotected.

Third, their land will be bare land. They had enjoyed good crops, excellent vineyards, great herds and beautiful orchards, but they would be scraped off the land...probably more like burned off.

Can you imagine a more terrible, helpless place for a nation to be. It was an invitation to any invader to come in and take away their good things, especially their good people as servants and soldiers.

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# Isaiah

## The Lord Is Salvation

Then we have two more pictures. These pictures show what Judah would look like after the invasion.

First, since Assyria would take away all the good animals and all the food-producing plants would be destroyed, there would be little left for those who were not taken away. Most of the men would have been taken away, along with the healthiest of the young women. So only a few men and, as we said in an earlier lesson, many women who had no husband. The picture here is of a man who gathers a small herd consisting of a cow and two sheep or goats. This probably means a calf, left behind when his mother was taken away, and female sheep or goats...not much with which to build a herd. From these animals, the family can get milk and milk products and from the bees they get honey, so their diet would be milk, buttermilk, butter, etc. and honey. Bread and wine would not be available. Now, milk and honey doesn't sound too bad, unless that was your only diet. Buttermilk without cornbread and butter without bread would be alright for a while, but it would probably get old pretty quickly.

Second, all those places where crops had been planted, where the vineyards had given grapes, where the trees in the orchards had provided fruit, would be covered with thorn bushes and thistles. Thistles are plants with prickly stems and leaves. Some had dense, rounded, usually purple flower heads surrounded by thorns. You just couldn't cultivate or plant on that kind of land. It would have been difficult to find pasture to graze the cattle and goats.

The animals would try to find food in the thorns and briars, and humans would go there to hunt wild animals for food. That would be a very difficult way to find something to eat.

Pretty bad pictures, huh? But, what does that have to do with us in 2013? There are some lessons here: First, God is still God and He has the best plan for us; If we ignore His plan, things won't go well.

Second, even though a person is a Christian, Satan, our enemy, is still out there, and when we step out of God's will, Satan will make things really difficult.

\*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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**Scripture Memory:** "Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?'" Isaiah 7:13

**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to depend on God for hope, in Christ.

