

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

**Warning!**  
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**Isaiah 8**

**Lesson Fifteen**

*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum*

# Isaiah

**The Lord Is Salvation**

## **Warning! Warning! Warning!**

The lesson today shouts, “Warning!” The first thing we notice is instruction from God to make a sign. Isaiah is to take a large board or something else large enough for viewing the letters. He is to write in the simple language which could be read by everyone. The message he is to write is Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (Ma’-her-shal’-al-hash’-baz) which means something like “swift the spoiling, prompt the plundering.” Read Isaiah 8:1-8.

Isaiah calls on two people to be witnesses that he has made the sign at this specific time. They are Uriah the priest and Zechariah, son of Jeberchiah. (Je-ber-e-kl’-ah) This is not the Zechariah whose writings are included later in the Bible. Both of them were obviously highly respected and would testify that Isaiah had made his prophesy well before the events took place.

Then Isaiah says that his wife got pregnant; she is called “The Prophetess.” When their son was born, Isaiah was instructed to name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. Here we find out more of the meaning of this strange name. God said that before the child could talk, the wealth of Damascus and the spoil (all the stuff that conquering armies took away) of Samaria would be captured by the king of Assyria. Remember, these two nations were the ones who wanted to form an alliance with Judah to fight against the Assyrians. Damascus was the capitol of Syria, and of course, Samaria was the capitol city of the northern kingdom of Israel. Warning!

God is saying that the destruction of both Syria and Israel were coming soon. Then, in verses five through eight, Isaiah draws a picture. He said that instead of the people trusting in the peaceful stream, a spring-fed stream on the southeast side of Jerusalem, they were trusting in an alliance with Assyria, represented by the mighty Euphrates river. The peaceful stream is associated with David’s faith and the promise of God to Israel. Assyria was going to destroy Syria and Israel, the northern kingdom, like a flood of the Euphrates, and by the time the flood had reached Judah, it would only be as high as your neck. Judah would be almost destroyed, but they would survive. That happened a very few years after Isaiah spoke this prophesy.

The next few verses are the encouragement of Isaiah, speaking for God, to live according to God’s plan, not that which humans want. Read Isaiah 8:9-15. Some feel that the forty-sixth Psalm is a good companion for these verses. We can see that verses nine and ten are a song, ending with “God is with us.” The next verses tell Isaiah not to fear. God will guard those who trust Him. Humans are responsible to do the right thing...the thing God directs us to do.

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The last part of this chapter tells of Isaiah's decision to be silent for a while. There comes a time when God's prophet has said all that he can say. He has fulfilled his responsibility to both humans and to God. It doesn't seem as if Isaiah is going away mad, or is sulking, he is simply recognizing the reality of the situation. Ahaz and the people of Judah are not willing to hear the message from God.

The prophet can't force people to hear his message, and when the king, and all those who trust or want favors from the king ignore the voice of the prophet, there is little else the prophet can do. He said that he was going to roll up a scroll and seal it. It was to be read at some future time. You can find the same idea in Revelation 5:1-5. Read Isaiah 8:16-18.

Then, the prophet talks about what the people of Judah are doing instead of following God. He speaks to his disciples. Just as Jesus had disciples, it seems as if Isaiah also had those who followed him around, learning from him. Some may have been his sons. Isaiah assumes that the true word of God will be missed by the people, and they will turn to superstition.

He tells his disciples, probably including his sons, don't do what the people want you to do. They will want you to consult with fortunetellers and those who talk to "spirits." They will want you to talk to the dead. Isaiah tells the disciples, don't do that. Rely on the Scriptures... "the law and the testimony." Any other way of finding God's will is a dead end. Warning!

He warns that the people will try one thing after another to get a message that satisfies them. They will look up and down and sideways. And when they don't get what they want, they will curse their king and their gods.

But, there is nothing for them to find. The true message from God has already been spoken.

Today, people are looking high and low for something new...something that will make them feel like everything is going to be all right. But, only when they truly know the Bible and its message, will they know the truth and find how life can be what it should be.

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

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**Scripture Memory:** "The Lord spoke to me with His strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people." Isaiah 8:11

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

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## Student Worksheet

### **Warning! Warning! Warning! — Isaiah 8**

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. What was Isaiah to write on the sign he made?
2. What does that long word mean?
3. What two nations would be destroyed, and what did they want from Judah?
4. What did Isaiah tell his disciples, and probably his sons not to do?
5. How do people know the truth and find how life can be what it should be?

**Scripture Memory:** “The Lord spoke to me with His strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people.” Isaiah 8:11

#### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.