

Lost in Translation: Isaiah's Immanuel is NOT Jesus

Isaiah 7:1 In the days of Ahaz [730s BCE] the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but they could not conquer it.² When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," his heart and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

Is. 7:3 And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go forth to meet Ahaz, you and **Shear-jashub** your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field,⁴ and say to him, 'Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

Is. 7:10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz,¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. *Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanu-el**.*¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.¹⁶ ***For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.***¹⁷ The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria."

Is. 7:18 In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly which is at the sources of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee which is in the land of Assyria.¹⁹ And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

Is. 7:20 In that day the Lord will shave with a razor which is hired beyond the River — with the king of Assyria — the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also.

Is. 8:1 Then the LORD said to me, "Take a large tablet and write upon it in common characters, 'Belonging to Maher-shalal-hash-baz.'"² And I got reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me.³ And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name **Maher-shalal-hash-baz**;⁴ ***for before the child knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria.***"

Is. 8:5 The LORD spoke to me again:⁶ "Because this people have refused the waters of Shiloah that flow gently, and melt in fear before Rezin and the son of Remaliah;⁷ *therefore, behold, the Lord is bringing up against them the waters of the River, mighty and many, the king of Assyria and all his glory; and it will rise over all its channels and go over all its banks;*⁸ *and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck; and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, **O Immanu-el.***"

Is. 8:9 Be broken, you peoples, and be dismayed; give ear, all you far countries; gird yourselves and be dismayed; gird yourselves and be dismayed. ¹⁰ Take counsel together, but it will come to nought; speak a word, but it will not stand, **O Immanu-el!**

Is. 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the teaching among my disciples. ¹⁷ *I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.* ¹⁸ *Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.* ¹⁹ And when they say to you, “Consult the mediums and the wizards who chirp and mutter,” should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ To the teaching and to the testimony! Surely for this word which they speak there is no dawn. ²¹ They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry; and when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will curse their king and their God, and turn their faces upward; ²² and they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be thrust into thick darkness.