



**Gutenberg College Summer Institute 2015
REUNION: Tanakh and the Gospel of Matthew**

**Talk 2: Background to Isaiah 7:10-16
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I. About the Book of Isaiah

- A. Who was Isaiah?
 - 1. He was a prophet to Judah from 739 BC–690 BC.
 - 2. He was well connected in the palace.
 - 3. According to tradition, he was killed by sawing him in half.
- B. What is the book about?
 - 1. Judah has been wayward: worshiping idols and treating one another unjustly.
 - 2. So God is sending judgment to Judah;
 - a) But it is corrective judgment.
 - 3. Judah has a glorious future in store.
 - a) Accept the discipline for what it is.
 - b) Live in light of the glorious future that awaits.
- C. Where does this section fit in?
 - 1. General structure
 - a) Chapters 1-5: Introduction
 - (1) All the major themes are introduced.
 - b) Chapters 6-12: Prophetic warnings against allying with Israel and Aram
 - c) Chapters 13-27: Destruction of the nations and the world
 - d) Chapters 28-35: Prophetic warnings against allying with Egypt
 - e) Chapters 36-39: Historical realization of short-term prophecies
 - f) Chapters 40-48: God alone is in charge of history.
 - g) Chapters 49-55: The Servant is God's agent to bring salvation to the world.
 - h) Chapters 56-66: Worldwide reign of righteousness
 - 2. Isaiah is approaching Ahaz, King of Judah, early in Isaiah's prophetic career.

II. Historical situation

- A. Middle East was in turmoil.
 - 1. Three new kings of kingdoms

2. Assyria appears to be getting itself organized.
 - a) Historically a big threat
 3. Everyone expects Assyria to begin expeditions into the Levant.
 4. What do we do?
 - a) Resist?
 - b) Cooperate?
- B. Aram and Israel had formed an anti-Assyrian alliance.
1. They needed other kingdoms to join.
 2. They wanted Judah to join.
 - a) Judah refused.
 3. Now they are threatening to attack and install a more cooperative king.
 4. Joint armies are camped just north of Judah.
- C. Isaiah was sent to tell Ahaz this plot would not come to pass (7:7).

III. Comments about the text

- A. “He will eat curds and honey” (7:15) .
1. Compare verse 22.
 2. There will be an abundance of food because of an attack.
 - a) Described in symbolic language in verses 17-20.
- B. Another child is born and given a name with prophetic significance (8:1-4).
- C. Isaiah 8:18 says, “Behold, I and the children whom the Lord has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.”