

The Ministry of Isaiah under Pekah of Israel and Ahaz of Judah, c. 734 B.C.



NOTE: Under Jeroboam II, Israel had held sway over Syria as far north as “the entering of Hamath” (2 Kings 14:25); under Pekah, Israel shrank to the area south of Galilee and west of the Jordan River.

- 1:** Pekah turned toward the south to increase his holdings
- 2:** Rezin of Damascus also expanded to the south, menacing Judah and taking Elath from the Jews (2 Kings 16:5–6).
- 3:** God sent Isaiah to encourage Judah when threatened by Israel and Damascus. When Ahaz rejected God’s help, Isaiah gave the sign of Immanuel and the succeeding prophecy of Maher–shal–al–hash–baz (Isa. 7–8). Then with the prediction of future conquests by Assyria (The Assyrian Invasion Foretold) (Isa. 7:20; 8:4–8; 10:5) came the promise that a remnant should return (Isa. 10:20–23).
- 4:** Threatened on both sides, Ahaz refused God’s proffered help (Isa. 7; 8) and bribed Tiglath–pileser of Assyria with Temple treasures to save him.
- 5:** Assyria took Damascus and slew Rezin. Ahaz met Tiglath–pileser there, and, seeing a heathen altar, ordered the high priest to make a copy of it for the Temple at Jerusalem (2 Kings 16:9–11). Pekah was killed shortly thereafter even as he had slain his predecessor.
- 6:** Captives from Galilee and eastern tribes were taken by Assyria and resettled (2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chronicles 5:26; see Isaiah 9:1).