

Isaianic Prophecies Relating to Assyria and Babylon

As an introduction to the study of the Messianic prophecies of the book of Isaiah the prophetic style and manner of the book may well be studied first in the more prosaic and definite sections which have reference to the relations of Assyria and Babylonia to Israel. It should not be supposed that those prophecies which we call historical as opposed to Messianic references are always easy of exegesis or merely of a didactic nature simply because they refer to prosaic events of history. But because some, at least, of the prophecies referring to Assyria and Babylonia can be identified as referring to definite historical events, a study of these references should lead us nearer, at least, to an understanding of Isaiah's manner of prophecy. If we can expound these sections satisfactorily we shall have at least a start in the direction of a canon for the interpretation of the remaining predictions. To study first these historical prophecies is only to proceed from the known to the unknown, from the simple to the complex.

~~Another xxxxxxxxxxxx why xxxxxxxx~~

I. The Prophecies concerning Assyria and the Syro-Ephraimitish War.

The Fall of Ephraim and Damascus, and the distress of Judah. Assyria and the invasion of Tiglath-pileser III figure more largely in our prophecies than is sometimes realized. Naturally the very mention of the subject turns our attention first to the study of chapters 7 to 12, the so-called Book of Immanuel, where the names of Syria, Ephraim, and Assyria are prominent and the events connected with Ahaz's defeats are given a large place. It will be remembered that the prophecy here first concerns the Syro-Ephraimitic confederacy which will be replaced by the greater enemy Assyria, from whom only the remnant of Israel will be delivered. Yet the Lord will bring down the pride of Assyria when Assyria has finished God's chastening work. And from the