

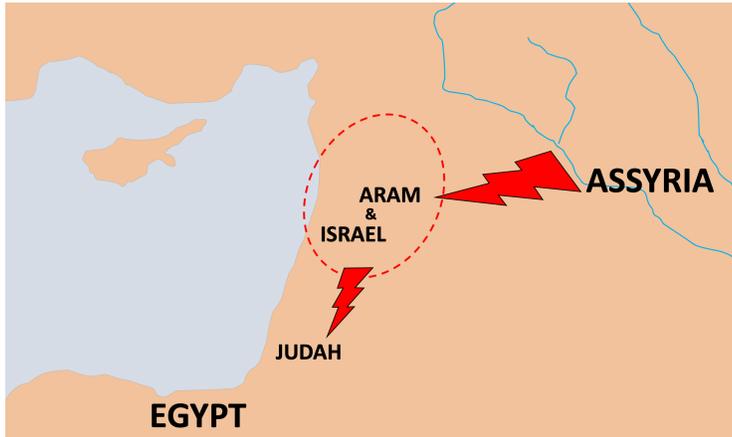
### “3 WAVES OF PROPHETS”

this whole series connects both the Historical Urgency and also the Poetic Intelligence of the 17 OT prophets in such a way that it helps unlock: (1) God’s actual “Personality” of deep-character, top-priorities, and intimate-feelings (2) the proper balancing of one’s spirituality & society-ethics, and (3) “shapes-of-the-future” that God keeps building His People towards

#### [study #6] ISAIAH: Judah will “Trust” in either God’s Ways or its own Political Pride

— covering ISAIAH chpts. 1-12 —

**ACTION #1.** During Isaiah’s preaching ministry to Judah, Judah felt trapped between **these 3 massive thoughts**:



- the reason **Israel-&-Aram** are attacking us is because we refuse to join their fight with Assyria
- the only way we can survive is to **start serving one of these totally-wicked societies: Israel-&-Aram** (& their fight w/Assyria), or **Egypt/Assyria** (so they help us fight *our* attackers)
- or... we **COULD** just totally trust God’s recent deal with us (that He will strengthen-&-protect us in exchange for us fixing our own wicked society)

**Discuss as a group:** redescribe in your own words the different relationships between each of the 5 nations on the map, plus how they might have shaped Isaiah’s preaching-message to Judah.

**ACTION #2.** Speaking of “WHO ARE YOU GOING TO TRUST?!” one of Isaiah’s primary themes throughout his super long book is that of “**SELF-PRIDE**”. Quickly read all these early passages in the book—**Isaiah 2:10-12** & **2:17-18** & **2:22** & **5:15-16** & **10:12-15** & **10:20**—and then afterwards try to summarize their combined message in just 1 sentence.

**ACTION #3. Put all the pieces of this story together:** Judah’s King (Ahaz) was just about to marry his fiancé and start having children when Isaiah came to Ahaz and prophesied to him about these 2 things simultaneously: (1) **Ahaz’s first child** and (2) **God’s deliverance of Judah**. Read the whole encounter in **Isaiah 7 verses 1-3, 7, & 10-16** and then also in **2 Kings 18:7**, then discuss:

- re-tell the whole story above in your own words and how all those verses are related or go together
- who was the child... what was God’s specific plan for delivering Judah... or what was the overall message?

**ACTION #4.** After the prophets delivered a message to the king from God, the prophet would then go home to think and pray *even more* about the message God had just given them. Then, God would give them *even more* to prophecy about—**on the same topic, but related to the distant future!** In **Isaiah 9:6-7** read what Isaiah got from God right after delivering his message in **Action#3** above, then discuss what you think it is foretelling about.

**EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:**

**GOLD CHALLENGE** ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Isaiah 13-35**

**PENGUIN CHALLENGE** ...throughout this series read the kings-&-exile books (this week’s portion: **1 Kings 6-11**)