



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:2
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

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It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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Maher-shalal-hash-baz

By: Brother Andrew Lacroix

Text: Isaiah 8:1-4

Mahershalalhashbaz is the longest name of a Bible character, at eighteen letters. It is certainly a very intriguing name. Yet all we know about him by name at least are in these four verses, and the name appears just twice: Verse one and verse four.

Yet Mahershalalhashbaz has a larger role than just his name being mentioned twice in all of Scripture. He is the sign of a very important time period. We will see that later on in this study. He is a son of the great prophet Isaiah. The Lord declares that: "...before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil

of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria." (v.4) Mahershalalhashbaz means "Speed the spoil, hasten the prey".

So do we see this somewhere? We certainly do. However, before we get to that, let's go to 7:15-16. Here Isaiah is speaking to Ahaz, after he gives the sign of Immanuel, that being Christ, but in the next two verses he is no longer speaking of the Saviour. Now he speaks of someone totally different. He tells him of the fact that before his son (Mahershalalhashbaz) knows how to refuse evil and choose good in his life, that the land Ahaz loathes shall be forsaken of both her kings. Mahershalalhashbaz is important for two very valuable reasons: First, he lends himself to an important concept of the so termed "age of accountability". We had discussed this in a previous devotional entitled "I Have Sinned Against the Lord" (2/1/13 HFT). Second, he is also the sign of a major occurrence in the Word of God.

In II Kings 15:27 and going all the way through 17:6, we see the last days of Israel, the northern kingdom, at this point in time. Judah will play a factor in the demise of Israel. As we break down this passage, we'll see that at some point, in a short time span, the northern kingdom will finally fall. How long is the time span? Mahershalalhashbaz twice (Isa. 7:16, 8:4) would not have sufficient knowledge of both choosing good or evil and also lacks the proper means of crying out for his father or his mother. Depending on each child's development, which differs, it would be between two and three years. It was very possible that this son was held by Isaiah or his wife at a very young age when they met Ahaz in chapter 7. So at two to three years time from that point, the northern kingdom would indeed fall. The date of their fall was given as 721 BC. Let's start before that.

Pekah here is king of Israel in Samaria. This is one of the regions which were besieged by the Assyrians in that 721 conquest (Isa. 8:4). He was, like all before him in the northern region, a king who did evil in the sight of the Lord (cf. 2 Kin. 15:28). The conquest would start during his reign (v. 29). Yet note verse 37. The passage (v. 32-28) talks about Jotham, who is a godly king of the southern kingdom Judah, getting attacked by Rezin, the Syrian king, and Pekah. Israel is attacking Judah! Pekah had his own battles, but yet defers some to attack Judah over defending his own land. No wonder Israel was taken so swiftly! Not as quick as you may think, but it was quicker with perhaps as much as half of Israel fighting Judah when they should have been defending home turf with Assyria's invasion.

Let's go back to Isaiah, but let's look at 7:1-9. This passage tells of Syria's demise, and how it joins with Pekah king of Israel in battle against Judah, but Isaiah tells those who would just listen to him, Ahaz included, to not fear, saying: "It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass." (7:7) However Isaiah also warned them, Ahaz as king certainly included, "If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established." (v.9)

So the combined forces started when Jotham was king and continued into evil king Ahaz's reign (2 Kin. 16). This is when Ahaz then petitions Assyria, who is in the midst of capturing Israel the northern kingdom, to spare them, and he offers them the very silver and gold that are in the house of God and belong to the house of God. It works. Assyria then goes up against Damascus and takes it, slaying Rezin their king in the process (v. 9). This is one half of the Mahershalalhashbaz prophecy (Isa. 8:4).

After Pekah is murdered by Hoshea, he becomes the last king of Israel. He then attempts to offer presents to Shalmaneser, the new leader of Assyria, to go away. Yet Shalmaneser isn't interested. Hoshea was inconsistent in a tribute to Assyria before, perhaps in an alliance with Egypt, and he therefore imprisoned Hoshea and then, in that two to three year span, proceeds to capture and carry Israel away for good (721 BC).

It took those three years for Shalmaneser to capture Israel fully (17:6). Perhaps it took three years for Tilgath-pileser to fully rid Damascus (Syria) as well. Those three years was the sign, at this point Isaiah's son Mahershalalhashbaz would have been able to cry for his father or his mother as well as start to determine how to refuse evil and choose good. This time frame is approximate and more than appropriate.

Now God was not glorified in the deed Ahaz did, that being the removal of His silver and gold from His house and given unto Assyria, but it was not for Ahaz's benefit that Damascus was overtaken. God gave a promise to the people of Judah (Isa. 7:7). It came to pass not in the reign of Ahaz, for they were still threatened by Assyria during the time when they conquered Damascus and Syria. Only during the time period of godly king Hezekiah was Assyria turned away, and Judah saved. Yet this time period of God's tremendous grace was extended just 135 years from the fall of Israel. In 586, Babylon would take Judah for the same reasons that downfall Israel.

In 2 Kings 17:7-23, we get a long winded explanation of why Israel fell. God finally brought His longsuffering to an end and chastised His once faithful children into a long period of exile under cruel Assyrian command. As I mentioned earlier, the takeover occurred in 721, and it wasn't until 516, seventy years after the Judah kingdom fell, that many of their descendants returned to the land they once called home.

What seems like an inconsequential thing or name in the midst of a time period of doom and gloom for God's people proves to be much more than so when studied out. Mahershalalhashbaz leaves behind a few important facts:

1) He may hint at the idea of what is colloquially called in Bible Christianity circles the "age of accountability", by saying he couldn't have a good grasp of good and evil and also knowledge to cry for one parent until he was at least two to three years of age. For more on this, please see the study, "I Have Sinned Against the Lord".

2) He was the sign of the destruction of two of Judah's biggest enemies: Syria and Israel, who were far away from God, thanks to Jeroboam. This was promised to Ahaz and the people of Judah in Isa. 7:7. Mahershalalhashbaz may have been already born or in the womb of his wife when he promised Judah their deliverance.

3) Ahaz is delivered because he paid off Assyria to do so. Yet in spite of the evil he did by using money from the house of God, his son, Hezekiah, would reap the benefits of the evil deed, and bring Judah back to the Lord. That gave them 135 years before they fell for good (586).

4) What may seem like a minute matter to us or something of not as much importance is of great value and significance to the Lord. Doesn't God care about the minute matters of our own lives? He knows how much (or little) hair we have on our heads and He knows when

a sparrow falls on the ground (cf. Matt. 10:29-31).

Hopefully this study encourages all of us to dig a little deeper into God's Word. Not everything will be a huge deal, but much of it will be of great importance from then to now and into all eternity. After all we have been commanded to study to show ourselves approved unto God (cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).

The King James Bible Song

Some members of Central Baptist Church, Patterson, NJ, under the leadership of Dr. Henry Lee, pastor, wrote and sang the song "The King James Bible Song".

When I was but a little child my mama would read to me,
From the old King James Bible, as I sat up-on her knees.
She says that it is God's Holy Book, every word in-side is true.
The precious holy gift of God - from heaven to me and you.
It's the old King James Bible – my mama read to me.
The old King James Bible, that sets my spirit free.
The precious Holy Word of God preserved for you and me.
It's the old King James Bible – my mama read to me
Well, the old King James Bible - - is what we need today-
That teaches us how to please the Lord in all we do and say.
If we read and pray then obey, the Lord will surely lead
From the Old King James Bible - my mama read to me.

"Account" (Part 1) (By: Craig Glickman)

This is the start of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word "account" in the Bible. This word appears 31 times in the King James Version (*Account, Accounted, Accounting, Accounts*). For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

2 Kings 12:4 - John Gill (*whom I do not agree with all his studies*) said this: **And Jehoash said to the priests,....** Being minded or having it in his heart, to repair the temple, as in [2 Chronicles 24:4](#) not only because it was the sanctuary of the Lord, though that chiefly, but because it had been a sanctuary to him, where he was hid and preserved six years:

all the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the Lord: or rather, "that is to be brought", as De Dieu, and others render it, the particulars of which follow:

even the money of everyone that passeth *the account*; or that passeth among them that are numbered, as in [Exodus 30:13](#) that were upwards of twenty years of age, and bound to pay the half shekel for the ransom of their souls; and it is called the collection or burden Moses laid on them in the wilderness, [2 Chronicles 24:6](#).

the money that every man is set at; the price the priest set upon or estimated a man at, or whomsoever that belonged to him, that he devoted to the Lord, which by the law he was bound to pay for his redemption, and, till that was done, he and they were not his, but the Lord's, of which see [Leviticus 27:1](#) and here the Targum calls it, the money of the redemption of souls, which is the gift of a man for the redemption of his soul:

and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the Lord: vows and freewill offerings made of their own accord.

--- John Gill Commentary on Kings 12

1 Chronicles 27:24 – Again, John Gill exegetes this passage: *Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number* By the order of David, but entirely against his own will, see ([1 Chronicles 21:2-4](#), [1 Chronicles 21:6](#)),

but he finished not;

the two tribes of Benjamin and Levi not being counted by him, ([1 Chronicles 21:6](#))

because there fell wrath for it against Israel;

the plague being broke forth before he had done numbering, which put a stop to it, ([1 Chronicles 21:14](#))

neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of David;

that which was brought in by Joab, though imperfect, was not entered into the diary, journal, or annals which David ordered to be written of all memorable events and transactions in his reign; and which were afterwards carried on by the kings of Judah, often referred to in the preceding books; and this was done, not because of the imperfection of the account, but because David did not choose this sin of his should be transmitted to posterity, though it has been, notwithstanding this precaution of his.

Matthew Henry quotes: “The officers of the court, or the rulers of the king's substance, had the oversight and charge of the king's tillage, his vineyards, his herds, his flocks, which formed the wealth of eastern kings. Much of the wisdom of princes is seen in the choice of their ministry, and common persons show it in the choice of their advisers. David, though he had all these about him, preferred the word of God before them all. Thy testimonies are my delight and my counsellors.” (27:16-34)

Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

Passage: Isaiah 48:18

Emotion(s): Peace

Cause: Harkening to (or heeding) to God's commandments

Effect: Peace like a river

What does the passage say?: This passage tells us that the peace of God passes all of our understanding. It goes beyond comfort, joy and rest that might be temporal. The peace of God in the heart of a believer flows like a river even though our comfort, joy and rest can be temporal.

What does the passage say to you and I?: We need to trust God fully, depend on Him fully and not trust in our selves (Prov. 3:5-6). When we heed to God's word, the peace of God flows through us 'like a river!' Dear believer, are you heeding to God's word or are you in sin and disobedience?

What should you and I do about it?: We need to not let sin and apathy dam up the peace of God flowing in our hearts. A river's waters must be flowing or they become stagnant. Simply put, when we sin, don't confess sin and strive to forsake the sin, we 'dam up the waters of the river' so to speak. Our fellowship with God is broken and we temporarily, until we make things right with God, lose true peace that only God can give us, His peace! Like the hymn says, 'Channels only blessed Master flowing through us thou can't use us, every day and every hour'!

How do you and I stay accountable?: Allow the Holy Spirit to mold you into the image of Christ and let the peace of God, the peace that passes all understanding, flow like a river through your heart and life! He is the potter and we are the clay. Give Him all your time, talent and treasure and let the Potter mold you into a vessel of mercy fit for His use!

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Jesus is The Prince, Lord and King of Peace

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14).

The Child that was born in Bethlehem is the Son of God who has taken away the sin of the world. His sacrificial death has provided the way for all men, women, boys and girls to be eternally set free from the bonds that enslave them.

- He is the **“Prince of Peace”** because He came in submission to His Father's will and proclaimed peace to all on the basis of His shed blood.
- He is the the **“Lord of Peace”** (2 Thessalonians 3:16) because He gives peace that passes understanding to all who keep in prayerful fellowship with His Father with thankful hearts.
- He will reign as the **“King of Peace”** (Hebrews 7:2) over the whole earth when He has put all enemies under His feet.

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior? Has He filled your heart with peace? He desires to give you a peace that the world can never give. Why not trust in Him today (II Corinthians 6:2). --P.D.J.

:) Children For Christ :)

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Memory Verse: “O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river...” (Isaiah 48:18a)

1. True or False: The peace of God is a higher thing than comfort.
2. True or False: The peace of God is a deeper thing than joy and a more solid thing than rest.

3. The peace of God shows us that while my comforts may be diminished, my rest be broken and my joy be disturbed my peace still flows like a _____.
4. What happens when you interrupt the flow of a river? A. It is no longer a river B. It still flows
5. You may dam up a river's waters, but you only make them stagnant, for their freshness and their fruitfulness depend upon the continuity of their changeless flow. Write down three ways how your life for God can flow like a river:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
6. A flowing river is the perfect scriptural illustration of the peace only _____ can provide (Isa. 66:12)
7. Read Isa. 57:20-21. "The troubled sea" illustrates the state of those who have no relationship with God, and therefore have no: A. Peace B. Video Games C. Money
8. Write down the definition of 'peace' here? _____
9. The _____ of God passes all _____.
10. True or False: The devil and the things of this world can never bring true peace!

"Where man rules, God overrules!"	"God's love is what gives us joy. Faith makes it possible."
"I'd rather be in heaven studying my ABCs than in hell studying Greek."	<p><u>Praises</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The blessings of and edification of the body of Heritage Baptist Church following our recent family conference with Pastor Mike Jones of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Oakdale, CT. <p><u>Prayer Requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman) • Lacroix family and friend Rick (Salvation) • Rusty and family, Jose, Rudney (Salvation) • Job situation for Brother Craig (Day shift)

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

His Servants,
Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix
Prov. 3:5-6 1 Thes. 5:18

