

October 6 2024 Readers Theatre of Scripture

Based on Texts from Isaiah chapters 7 & 8

Narrator: In the time when the nation of Israel was divided into Northern and Southern Kingdoms, the Prophet Isaiah arose to bring God's word of judgement and hope to the people of Judah in the south. Isaiah said:

Isaiah: Send me, Lord!

Narrator: The Lord sent Isaiah. But he didn't only send Isaiah to bring a message to the people. Isaiah and an anonymous prophetess became a kind of prophetic team. She likely was Isaiah's spouse. We don't know much about her, but it seems she gave birth to three boys by Isaiah. When the first child was born, she said:

The Prophetess: His name is Shear-jashub.

Narrator: Which means, "A remnant shall return." This name was to signify that even if the Kingdom of Judah would experience a catastrophe in the future, they would survive. When the second child was born, the prophetess said:

The Prophetess: His name is Emmanuel.

Narrator: Which means, "God is with us." This name was to signify to Ahaz, Judah's king at the time, that although the northern kingdom was in an alliance with other nations against Judah, God would be with them to protect them. When the third child was born, she said:

The Prophetess: His name is Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

Narrator: Which means, "Spoil Swiftly, Ravage Rapidly." After these two more hopeful names, the name of this last child was a sign of Judah's coding destruction in the future. Later, Isaiah said this about his children:

Isaiah: See, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Narrator: Throughout history, God's children have had many different names. What does your name mean and what might it be a sign or portent of?