

Isaiah 7:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin; and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people.

Analysis

The prophecy that 'the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin' establishes geopolitical hierarchy while implicitly denying Syria's ultimate authority over Judah. The follow-up '(and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people)' predicts Northern Kingdom's destruction—fulfilled when Assyria conquered Samaria (722 BC) and later deportations completed depopulation. This demonstrates divine sovereignty over nations and vindicates prophetic warnings.

Historical Context

Sixty-five years from Isaiah's prophecy (c. 735 BC) brings us to c. 670 BC, when Assyrian deportations under Esarhaddon completed Northern Kingdom's dissolution as distinct people.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do God's specific historical prophecies build faith in His comprehensive sovereignty?
2. What does the destruction of covenant-breaking Ephraim warn about persisting in rebellion?

Interlinear Text

רַצְיָן דָּמָשָׁק יְרָאֵם וְרַעֲשָׁק אֶרְם
H3588 For the head of Syria is Damascus H1834 For the head of Syria is Rezin
H7218 H758 H1834 H7218 H1834 H7526

וְבַעַד שְׁשׁ יָמִים יְחִמֵּשׁ אֶפְרַיִם יְמִינָה
H5750 and within threescore H8346 H2568 and five H8141 H2844 H669 shall Ephraim

מִנְעָם

that it be not a people

H5971

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 14:15 (Parallel theme): And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.