

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

כִּי	וְרֹאשׁ	אֲחֶם	דָּמָשְׁקִי	וְרֹאשׁ	דָּמָשְׁקִי	רֶצֶן
H3588	For the head	of Syria	is Damascus	For the head	is Damascus	is Rezin
	H7218	H758	H1834	H7218	H1834	H7526
וְבַעֲדֵי	שָׁלֹשִׁים	וְחֲמִישָׁה	שָׁנָה	יָמֵי	אֶפְרַיִם	
H5750	and within threescore	and five	years	H2844	shall Ephraim	
	H8346	H2568	H8141		H669	
וְעַמָּהּ:						
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.