

Isaiah 7:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.

Analysis

The parallelism limiting Ephraim's head to Samaria and Samaria's head to Remaliah's son emphasizes human limitations, contrasting with Judah's divine protection. The pivotal statement 'If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established' (Hebrew word play: 'im lo ta'aminu ki lo te'amenu') makes faith prerequisite to security. Belief in God's promises, not political alliances, ensures stability. This anticipates New Testament emphasis that faith is foundation (Hebrews 11:1, 6) and that unbelief brings judgment (Hebrews 3:19).

Historical Context

Ahaz faced choice: trust God's promise or seek Assyrian alliance. His choice of alliance brought temporary relief but ultimate subjugation, demonstrating that unbelief has consequences.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the connection between belief and establishment inform our response to threatening circumstances?
2. What areas of life remain unstable because of functional unbelief in God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וְרֹאשׁ	אֶפְרַיִם	שָׁמָר	וְרֹאשׁ	שָׁמָר	בֶּן
And the head	of Ephraim	is Samaria	And the head	is Samaria	son
H7218	H669	H8111	H7218	H8111	H1121
הִנֵּה	לֹא	תִאֱמָנוּ:	לֹא	כִּי	תִאֱמָנוּ:
is Remaliah's	H518	H3808	If ye will not believe	H3588	H3808
H7425		H539			H539

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 11:6 (Faith): But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 11:20 (Faith): Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

2 Chronicles 20:20 (Faith): And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

1 John 5:10 (Faith): He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

Acts 27:25 (Faith): Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

