

Isaiah 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I took unto me faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest, and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah.

Analysis

God provides faithful witnesses to authenticate the prophecy, following Deuteronomic law requiring two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15). Uriah the priest represents religious authority, while Zechariah son of Jeberechiah represents civil authority. This legal framework demonstrates that God's prophetic word operates within covenantal and legal structures. The witnesses would verify when the child was born and named, and when the prophecy was fulfilled—showing God's word as historically reliable and legally binding.

Historical Context

Uriah the high priest is mentioned in 2 Kings 16:10-16 as serving under Ahaz. Zechariah may be the father of King Hezekiah's mother (2 Chronicles 29:1), making him a significant court figure. The use of official witnesses was standard practice in ancient Near Eastern legal contracts and prophecies. This prophetic witness would authenticate Isaiah's ministry when Damascus and Samaria fell to Assyria in 732 BC.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God establish His word through proper legal and covenantal witnesses?
2. How does the historical fulfillment of prophecy strengthen our confidence in Scripture's reliability?
3. What role do credible witnesses play in authenticating God's work in our lives and communities?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵת הַפְּנִים אֶת־עֲמָן יָמָן לְעֵד יָמָן וְאֵת יְדָה
And I took H5749 witnesses H5707 unto me faithful H539 Uriah H223 the priest H3548 H853

זְכָרִיָּהוּ בֶּן־צְבָרִי הַזְּכָרִי
and Zechariah H2148 the son H1121 of Jeberechiah H3000