

# Isaiah 8:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth up upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory: and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks:

## Analysis

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The imagery shifts dramatically: rejecting gentle waters brings overwhelming flood. The 'king of Assyria' represents God's judgment instrument—violent, unstoppable, comprehensive. The flood metaphor suggests totality: waters reaching 'to the neck' indicate near-total destruction, yet not quite complete (the head remains above water, suggesting survival of a remnant). This demonstrates the Reformed doctrine of judgment and mercy intertwined—God disciplines severely but preserves His people. Assyria's invasion, though used by God, would ultimately be restrained.

## Historical Context

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Fulfilled in Sennacherib's invasion of 701 BC. Assyrian forces swept through Judah like a flood, destroying 46 fortified cities and besieging Jerusalem. The annals of Sennacherib describe shutting up Hezekiah 'like a bird in a cage.' Waters reaching 'to the neck' was literal—Jerusalem itself, the 'head' of Judah, survived while everything else was destroyed. God miraculously delivered Jerusalem (Isaiah 37:36-37), proving He controls even His judgment instruments.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use difficult circumstances as instruments of discipline for His people?
2. What does the 'waters to the neck' imagery teach about God's restraint even in severe judgment?
3. How have you experienced God's preservation in the midst of overwhelming trials?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַלֵּיהֶם	וְעָלָה	אֲדֹנָי	הִנֵּה וְלֵכִי	
H5921	H5927	H136	H3651 H2009	
	and he shall come up	Now therefore behold the Lord		
אֶת	וְהָרַבִּים	הַעֲצוּמִים	הַנָּהָר	מֵי
H853	H7227	H6099	H5104	H4325
	and many	strong	of the river	upon them the waters
עַל	וְעָלָה	כְּבוֹד וְ	כָּל	וְאֶת
H5921	H5927	H3519	H3605	H853
	and he shall come up	and all his glory		of Assyria
			אֲשֶׁר	מֶלֶךְ
			H804	H4428
			אֶפְיָקוֹס	כָּל
			H650	H3605
			וְהָלַךְ	עַל
			H1980	H5921
				כָּל
				H3605
				H1415
				גְּדוֹתָיו:
				all his banks

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 7:17** (Kingdom): The LORD shall bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah; even the king of Assyria.

**Isaiah 7:20** (Kingdom): In the same day shall the Lord shave with a razor that is hired, namely, by them beyond the river, by the king of Assyria, the head, and the hair of the feet: and it shall also consume the beard.

**Genesis 6:17** (Parallel theme): And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

**Amos 8:8** (Parallel theme): Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

**Amos 9:5** (References Lord): And the Lord GOD of hosts is he that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.