

# 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

**Psalm 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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וְאֵלֶּךָ	הִנֵּה	אָדָנִי	וַעֲלָה	עַלְיָה
H3651	H2009	Now therefore behold the Lord	and he shall come up	H5921
		H136	H5927	
אַתָּה	מֵ	פָּנָה	עֲצָזָמִים	אַתָּה
H853	upon them the waters	of the river	strong	and many
	H4325	H5104	H6099	H7227
עַל	וְאֵת	כִּי	וְאֵת	עַל
even the king	of Assyria	H853	H3605	and all his glory
H4428	H804		H3519	and he shall come up
				H5921
כֹּל	כֹּל	כֹּל	כֹּל	כֹּל
over all his channels	and go over	H5921	H3605	all his banks
H3605	H650	H1980	H1415	

## 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.

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