

Just What Is God Up To?

1. God is up to something in your story, our story, and His story. Besides Isaiah, who is the main character in this story?
2. Politics can complicate things when you would rather just live your life in peace. What are one or two political complications in the story that we're studying?
3. Despite the craziness that goes on in our personal lives and the political scenes, God is doing something big in the world. And that story is unfolding slowly. What's the special name for this covenant that plays a big part in this section of Isaiah?
4. Tiglath Pileser III (Assyria) was all about regional dominance. Rezin (Syria) and Pekah (Israel/Ephraim) formed an alliance that was dedicated to resisting him. Guess what decision Ahaz is facing?
5. Pekah and Ahaz are enemies but was their common heritage?
6. How many kings of Israel were good? How many kings of Judah were good?
7. Not all the kings of Israel share a common ancestry, but all the kings of Judah do. Who is the special ancestor of the kings of Judah?
8. What was the initial response of Ahaz and his people when they learned that Syria and Israel/Ephraim were going to attack?
9. Ahaz was caught between a rock and a hard place. How could he have seen a good way forward?
10. When Ahaz was afraid of the political threats that he was facing, what was God's initial message to him (Isaiah 7:3,4)?

There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord. (Proverbs 21:30)

11. Instead of asking for a sign of confirmation from God, what did Ahaz decide to do to solve his problem?

All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us'). (Isaiah 7:14)

6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen! (Isaiah 9:6,7)

12. Ahaz decided to side with the powerful king of Assyria. He thought that was a safe bet. Why was he wrong?

BONUS QUESTION

Who most resembles your story?

FATHER

SON

GRANDSON