

and not stop with the destruction of Damascus and the overwhelming of Samaria, but will actually pass through Judah, and the stretching out of his wings will fill the breadth of Immanuel's land.

Immanuel's Land

At the end of verse 8 it is interesting to notice that the land is not described as the land of King Ahaz. Ahaz is utterly unworthy of the Davidic throne. The land is spoken of here as in principle already belonging to the true son of David who is eventually to reign over it, and so it is called, "thy land, O Immanuel." It is His land which is menaced by the coming of the great Assyrian hordes.

The word Immanuel occurs not only here at the end of verse 8, but also at the end of verse 10. In verse 8 the King James Version transliterates it as Immanuel, but at the end of verse 10 as "God is with us." It is actually the same word in both cases. Mentioning the name of Him who really possesses this land brings to our attention the fact that the king of Assyria is actually powerless to destroy the land of Immanuel unless Immanuel allows him to do so. It can be done only as God permits it as a punishment for sin. He is not yet ready to do this; therefore verses 9 and 10 assure us that even though the forces of Assyria and of all its subject peoples associate themselves and gird themselves with great power in order to conquer Judah, they will be broken in pieces and their plans will come to nothing. This is the land of Immanuel and "God with us" is present in it.

This wonderful prediction would be literally fulfilled in the time of Ahaz' son, Hezekiah. As a result of Ahaz' alliance the Assyrian king had devoured the buffer states and now his realm touched that of Judah. A boastful Assyrian king named Sennacherib would lead his armies into the land of Judah, overflowing most of it and capturing its strong cities, but God would prevent him from taking Jerusalem. The angel of the Lord would destroy his army and would thus force him to return to his own land. All this is vividly described in the historical section of the Book of Isaiah, in chapters 36 and 37.