

Ahaz refuses sign (7:12)

Isaiah gives in vision
of future (7:13-15)

Isaiah applies to Ahaz

Now, the matter stands thus. King Ahaz having rejected (7:16f) the sign which God had offered to him, the Prophet reminds him of the foundation of the covenant, which even the ungodly did not venture openly to reject. The Messiah must be born; and this was expected by all, because the salvation of the whole nation depended on it.

Upon this interpretation there is a change in the nature of the prophecy between verse 14 and the two following verses. In verse 14 the birth of the Messiah is present to the prophet's vision. This is prediction, and in the birth of Jesus Christ it found its fulfillment. Verse 15, however, is of a different character. We should remember that the language of prophecy is filled with mystery and is sometimes obscure. It is not simple history written in advance, but is language of profound and beautiful symbolism, clothed in an aura of mystery. Who are we to set limits upon the categories and devices which the prophet might employ? We cannot circumscribe and define the bounds which must contain the prophetic inspiration; rather we are to come to the prophecy, as indeed to all the sacred Scriptures, ready to accept it as it is and to yield to it our obedience.

Common Interpretations of Immanuel in Isaiah 7:14 (Fig. 13.13)

Pekah and Rezin
will be crushed

Signs of Two Sons (8:18)

First Son

Shear-Jashub (7:3)

שָׂאֵר יָשׁוּב (s'ar yasub)
"(only) a remnant will return"

Second Son (two sides of holy war)

Immanuel (7:14)

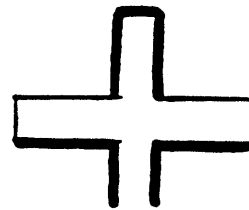
עִמָּנוּ אֵל ('immanu 'el)
"El is with us (on our side)."

Are these the same? (cf. 7:15 with 8:4)

Maher-shalal-Hash-Baz (8:1)

מָהֵר שָׁלַל חָשׁ בָּז
(māhēr šālāl ḥāš baz)

"quick to plunder, swift to spoil"



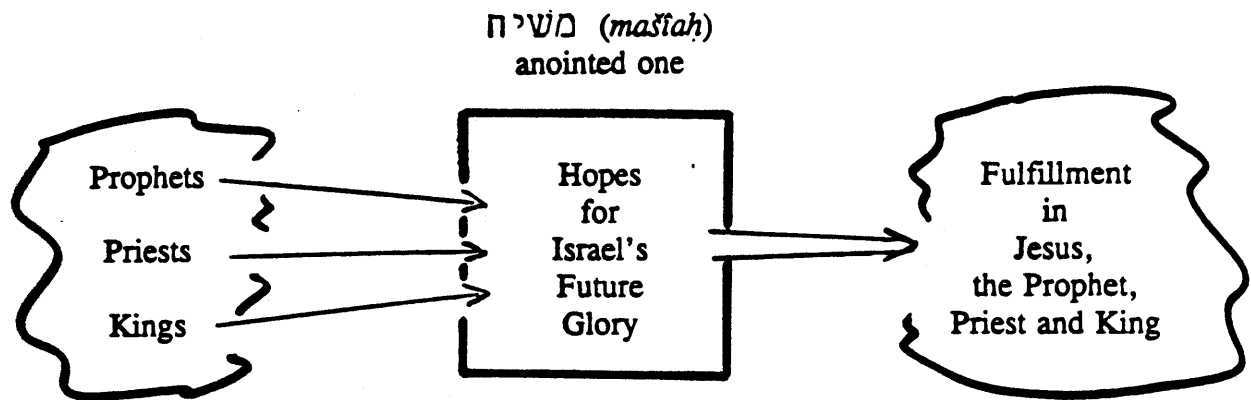
Type of Christ,
the
Immanuel
(Mt 1:23)

Christ is God on our side even
greater than Isaiah's son.

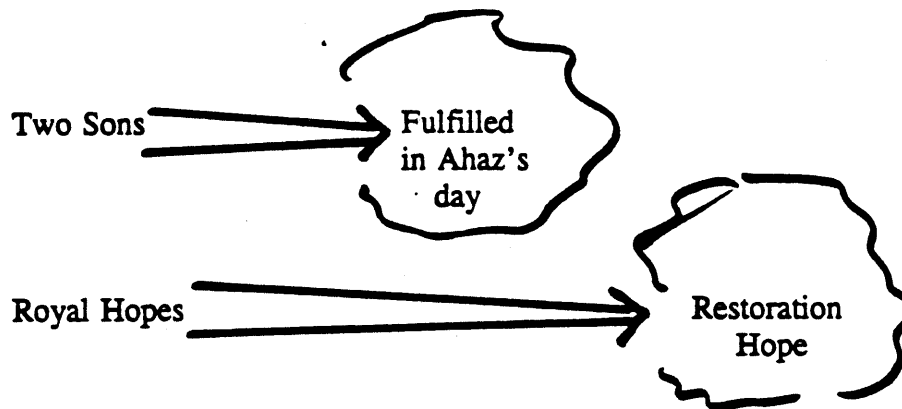
Isa 7:14 עלִמָּה ('ālmā) not בְּתוּלָה (b'tûlā)

Mt 1:23 παρθενος (LXX)

Ahaz and the Sons (Fig. 13.14)

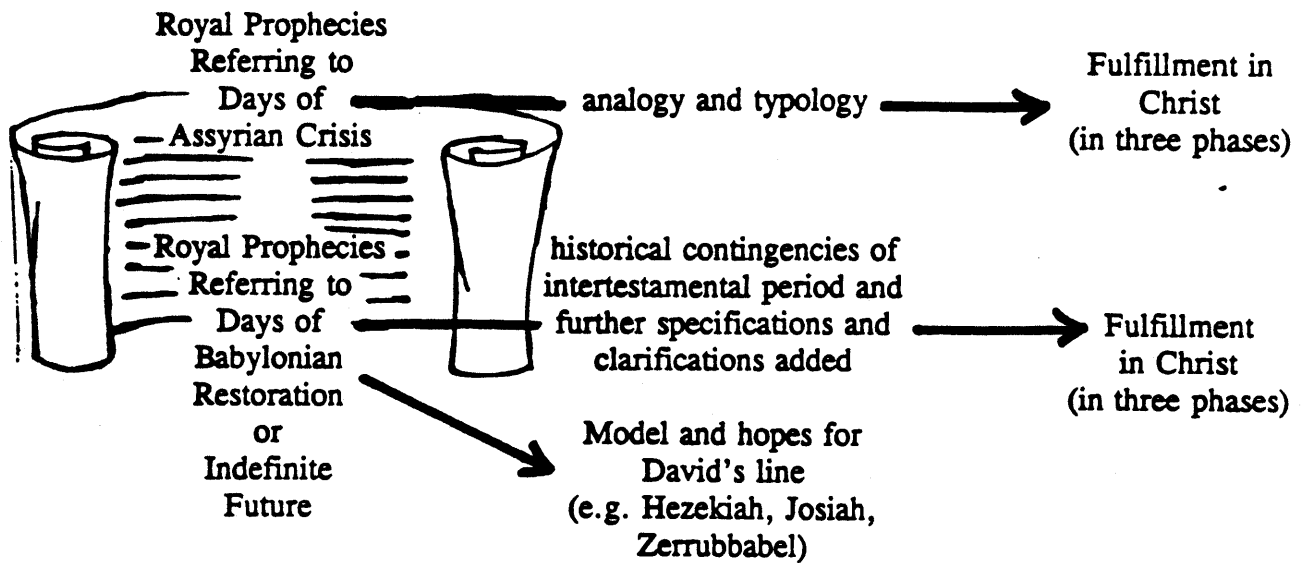


OT Messianic Hopes (Fig. 13.15)

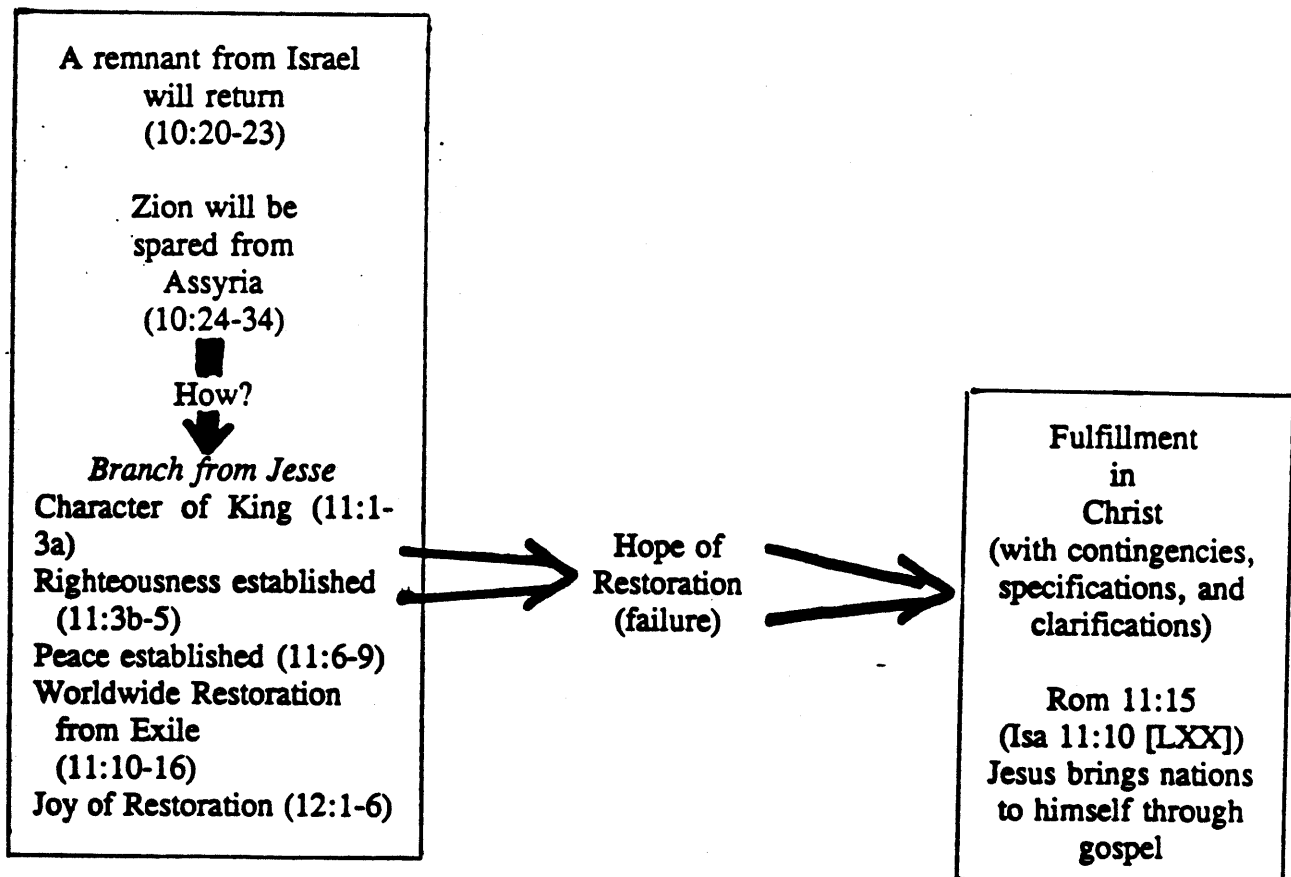


Isaiah's Message: As my prophecies of the immediate future have been fulfilled, so will my restoration prophecies.

Original Meaning of Isaiah 7:1-12:6 (Fig. 13.19)



Royal Messianism in Isaiah 7:1-12:6 (Fig. 13.16)



Hope for the Royal Branch (Fig. 13.18)