



The Temple of Solomon

June 2009 Knights Templar Education

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida

When we became Entered Apprentices, we were told that the Holy Bible was an inestimable gift of God to Man. It was to be our rule and guide to our faith and practice. With this newsletter, we hope, as Knights Templar, we can again go back to the Holy Bible as the source of our rule and guide.

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz

The biblical word **MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-BAZ** is the longest word in the bible. It is found in the book of Isaiah, Chapter 8, 1-4. All Knights Templar are very familiar with this word, but what does it mean?

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz is the name of Isaiah's second son. The prophet first wrote the words in the presence of two witnesses for all to see; and a year later, on the birth of his son, gave him the name.

The word has several meanings: "Hurry to spoil! He has made haste to the plunder!"; "Hurrying to the spoil he has made haste to the plunder"; "speed to the spoil, hurry to the plunder", "swift is booty, speedy is prey"; "Pillage hastens, looting speeds". Besides the literal meaning of the word, this name is a reference to the upcoming Assyrian invasion against Syria (Damascus) and Israel (Samaria).

Let us read the biblical verse:

"...Moreover the LORD said to me, "Take a large scroll, and write on it with a man's pen concerning **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**. And I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah." Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said to me, "Call his name **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**; for before the child shall have knowledge to cry 'My father' and 'My mother,' the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be taken away before the king of Assyria..."

This prophecy continues from Isaiah 7, where God assured Ahaz, king of Judah, that he would not be overthrown by the combined forces of Syria and Israel. God announced judgment against Syria and Israel, saying of their attack against Judah: *It shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass . . . Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, so that it will not be a people.* Here, God gives Isaiah a sign to explain more about *how soon* the defeat of Syria and Israel will come.

Let us look at each verse:

- a. **Take a large scroll:** It isn't often that the prophets are commanded to write, but here is one instance. Isaiah will write **concerning Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**.



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- b. ...**with a man's pen**: Isaiah's message was meant to be public, and at a level any man could read and understand.
- c. **I will take for Myself faithful witnesses to record**: The LORD appointed two witnesses, so the validity of this word would be established. *By the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.* (Deuteronomy 19:15)
- d. **Then I went to the prophetess**: This refers to Isaiah's wife. She is called a prophetess, though it could be in the sense of simply being the wife of the prophet. However, she clearly brought forth prophecy on at least one occasion. The birth and naming of her son **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz** was a word from God, so she certainly "brought forth" that prophecy!
- e. **For before the child shall have knowledge to cry "My father" and "My mother"**: Through the birth and naming of **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**, the LORD gives a time frame for the invasion of Assyria that will punish Syria and Israel.

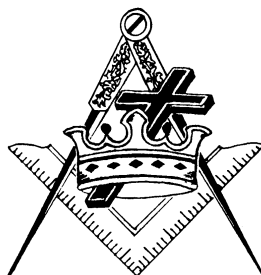
The word Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz is more than just a word. It was God's sign to those that were faithful to His Word. It stated clearly that we should never underestimate the Lord's protection. As stated in Zephaniah 1, 14: "...The great day of the Lord is near--near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there.

If your Commandery has any ideas or topics they would like to be included in future monthly newsletters, please contact one of the members of the Knights Templar Education and Leadership Committee:

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