

Thursday, April 6th, 2023

The Sign of Immanuel—Isaiah 7:1–25

Open It

1. To whom do people tend to turn when they face difficult circumstances?
2. What is one of the most frightening pieces of news you've ever received?

Isaiah 7:1–25 (ESV)

¹In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.

²When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.

⁴And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

⁵Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying,

⁶"Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"

⁷thus says the Lord GOD: " 'It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.

⁸For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

⁹And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.' "

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz:

¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!"

¹⁸In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

¹⁹And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

²⁰In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also.

²¹In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep,

²²and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.

²³In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briers and thorns.

²⁴With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briers and thorns.

²⁵And as for all the hills that used to be hoed with a hoe, you will not come there for fear of briers and thorns, but they will become a place where cattle are let loose and where sheep tread.

Explore It

3. What two nations united against Judah during the kingship of Ahaz? (7:1)
4. How was the morale of Judah affected when they heard about the alliance of Aram and Israel? (7:2)
5. What word of encouragement did God send via Isaiah and his son? (7:3–9)
6. What did God mean when He said, “the head of Damascus is only Rezin” and “the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son”? (7:8–9)
7. What did God invite Ahaz to do in order to reassure himself? (7:10–11)
8. How did Ahaz respond to the invitation to ask God for a sign? (7:12)
9. How did God react to Ahaz’s refusal to ask for a sign? (7:13)
10. What sign was promised by God, even though Ahaz had not asked? (7:14–15)
11. What was Isaiah’s specific prediction regarding Ahaz’s enemies? (7:16)
12. What country would be used by God to punish both Judah and its enemies? (7:17–20)
13. In what concrete ways would Judah lose its status as a land of rich, productive agriculture? (7:21–25)

Get It

14. What are some of your first instincts when you are overwhelmed by fear?
15. What can we learn about God from the fact that He gave a sign that wasn’t even requested?

Apply It

16. What fear do you need to surrender to God in order not to be controlled by it?