



Christmas Is. . .

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GIRL,

I cannot wait to grow with you.
This Christmas season I was
feeling the desire to DIG DEEP
into the Christmas story.
So come along as we open the
bible, study together, and
discover just what

Christmas is.

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I will be releasing 1-week
study at a time. for a 3
week series.



Read Isaiah 7:1-17

The Sign of Immanuel

7 When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

2 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with[a] Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub,[b] to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. 4 Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, 6 “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.” 7 Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“It will not take place,
it will not happen,

8 for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years
Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.”

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you^[c] a sign:

The virgin^[d] will conceive and give birth to a son, and^[e] will call him Immanuel.^[f] 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he

knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. 17 The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”





Read Isaiah 7: 1-2

Ahaz was the King of Judah and he was a terrible King. He even sacrificed his son Molech (2 Kings 16:1-4). They say that the only thing he did well was to have a son, Hezekiah. Hezekiah later becomes a great king.

King Ahaz trusted his plan and not GOD's. Well isn't this the most relatable thing? We read over and over in the bible that the people God had chosen and carried through hard times keep forgetting, and this King was no different.

What we are reading in these verses is that the King of Syria and the King of Isreal have joined forces and want to attack the Kingdom of Judah. But Judah (King Ahaz) enters into an ungodly treaty with Assyria for protection. King Ahaz was so corrupted after seeing the pagan temples so he went home and remodeled the Lord's temple after the pagan one. SMH. You can read all about this in 2 Kings 16 & check out the map below.

(remember that even though 2 kings come before the book of Isiah the bible was not written chronologically)



What can we notice about these verses?

Judah was supposed to be a godly people. But like verse 2 says,

SO THE HEARTS OF AHAZ AND HIS PEOPLE WERE SHAKEN, AS
THE TREES OF THE FOREST ARE SHAKEN BY THE WIND

The verse means that **King Ahaz and his people were moved by fear instead of motivated by their trust in God**, they were easily shaken people.

King Ahaz started to trust his own plans instead of the plan that God had for him. He was about to learn that God ultimately has a plan that would provide Salvation not only for the Kingdom of Judah but the entire world.

LUKE 19: 10

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST.

Today let's take a look at ourselves and ask God to forgive us for the times when we have trusted our way instead of the plan that he was making for us. Ask God to STOP us in our steps when we are Shaken by the fear in front of us. Remind us to align ourselves with the Truth of your word and your promises.

STOP:

Being Moved by FEAR

List below some things that you are fearful of.

Often times writing things down or saying them out loud helps us to identify and differentiate what we are really afraid of & what we just use as excuses.



Day 2

READ Isaiah 7: 3-12 pm

As we jump back into our text this week, we continue our study reading about King Ahaz.

Verse 3 picks up and the Lord tells Isaiah to meet up with King Ahaz and bring his son Shear-Jashub with him.

*** Shear- Jashub's name had a very important meaning = "A Remnant Shall Return."* The lord was foreshadowing that even though many kings and kingdoms had fallen away from the ways of the lord, there there was still a remnant of people that will be saved. and King Ahaz could be one But wait I'm getting ahead of myself.

So the two men and a young man met together and Isaiah shared what the Lord had told him. To sum it up Isaiah said :

*Listen, calm down. Don't be afraid. And don't panic
They talk big but there's nothing to them but smoke.
Those men that are plotting against you will be ruined
soon enough BUT If you won't believe in me, then you won't
be established for long as KING. You gotta choose buddy.*

WOAH are you catching this?

God sent Isaiah the prophet to tell King Ahaz that even though it looked bad on all sides if he would trust God then it would all work out for him. But if he didn't trust God it would still work out, just not for him.

Relateable much?? How many times have we been here in this place? How many times have we not trusted God's plan because it didn't make any sense to us?

the Lord, through Isaiah, takes it further and says, if you want a sign to believe me just ask and I will give you a sign. But Ahaz says, " I will not ask for a sign, I will not test the lord."

Claps for King Ahaz, right? You can't test God. Oh but wait, he didn't refuse in an attempt to honor God. NO, he refused because he knew that if he received a sign he would have to believe and he didn't want to.

I would read this story as a caution to our lives. Just because we appear to be doing the "right" thing, doesn't mean it's the "thing" God wanted us to do.

Remember:
Obedience to God means more than
the "Right Thing" in disobedience.

Today let's think about those areas of our life where we might be doing the right thing, but we know we are being disobedient to God.? Give it to God today.



Day 3
Read Isaiah 7: 13

What does this have to do with CHRISTMAS? I can't wait to show you, but first I thought it was important to identify that the first people the Lord shared his plan of ultimate redemption to was a man that, like us, struggled to keep the faith in God's plan. You see the bible is full of some amazing and brave stories but it also includes people I find relatable. Like King Ahaz that was on the brink of war in his kingdom and just didn't trust that God could save them again???



Before we continue studying
Let's stop here and ask some pondering questions:

Isaiah was a prophet of his day? but what is that?

What is a Prophet?

A prophet is one who spoke on God's Behalf. The prophet took on the duty of holding people accountable to the God of Isreal. These prophecies can come in many forms dreams, poetry, sermons, and even dramatic physical stunts. Some of those stunts were weird and crazy even. *[if you read on in Isaiah 20, Isaiah walks around naked for 3 years to prove a point about how the Assyrians will strip and shame the egiypttians]*

While a prophecy might be given all at one time, it might not be fulfilled at the same time. The prophecy that we are about to read involves a few parts the future to come, as well as the present future of King Ahaz.

WHAT IS PROPACHY ABOUT

THE PAST

- GOD'S WORKS
ESP. THE EXODUS
- "THE LAW"
ISREALS PACT WITH GOD

THE PRESENT

- DISLOYALTY TO GOD
- DISREGAURD FOR THR TORAH
- OPPRESSTION + SUFFERING

THE FUTURE

- GOD'S PROMISES
(GOOD & BAD)
- PEACE & JUSTICE

Getting back to what we read yesterday when King Ahaz said he didn't want to "test God", Isaiah responds to that.

ISAIAH 7: 13

AND HE SAID, "HEAR THEN, O HOUSE OF DAVID! IS IT TOO LITTLE FOR YOU TO WEARY MEN, THAT YOU WEARY MY GOD ALSO?"

Isaiah tells King Ahaz basically
You treat men terribly and you treat the Lord the same. How could question him or act like you are "too good to TEST him."

There are a few times in the bible that God uses moments of testing to strengthen the faith of his people. God was using Isaiah the prophet to try and get King Ahaz to STOP and strengthen his faith.

I wonder how many times in my life when something went "wrong" was God just trying to strengthen my faith?
How many times have I been like King Ahaz and I have STOPPED an opportunity to grow in my faith.

We are all human and if we allow ourselves to respond to God like we respond to people we might just be missing the opportunities that God is giving us.

PSALM 9:10

AND THOSE WHO KNOW YOUR NAME PUT THEIR TRUST IN YOU, FOR YOU, O LORD, HAVE NOT FORSAKEN THOSE WHO SEEK YOU.





Day 4

Read Isaiah 7: 14- 16

Ladies and gentlemen the moment we have been waiting for for. . . We finally read the first mention of the Prophecy of Jesus' Birth.

First, getting back to what we read yesterday when King Ahaz said he didn't want to "test God" Isaiah responds to that and tells him basically if you treated men the way you treat the lord you would get bet up. It's no wonder you are in the predicament you are in.

Even so . Isaiah continues:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.

→ For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings."



A lot is happening here. First of all, there are actually two prophecies revealed.
(1.) FUTURE the birth of Immanuel &
(2.) PRESENT the fall of King Ahaz adversaries.

The name Immanuel means "God with us." My friend, if you are keeping up, that kinda sounds like a gentle rebuke to King Ahaz.

If God is with us, then why should we fear the enemy?

ouch!!

Immanuel: God is with us

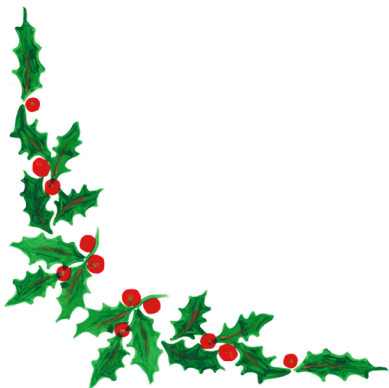
Immanuel was the perfect name to describe the coming of a savior. Jesus would be both God and Man, and even after death he would be WITH US always
He is with us through the Holy Spirit, He is with us in prayer, he is with us in everything we do.

theologian Clarke says:

He is *God with us*, to *comfort, enlighten, protect, and defend* us, in every time of *temptation and trial*, in the hour of *death*, in the day of *judgment*; and *God with us and in us*, and we *with and in him*, to all eternity.”

Today we read the first mention of the prophecy of Jesus' Birth. and we hear his name IMMANUEL. Today let our prayer be a reminder to ourselves that this story is not a far-off fairytale, Our God is with us all the time.

Whatever you are going through right now. God is with you. You are not alone.



Take a listen
to this song





Day 5
Read Isaiah 7: 17- 25

to sum it all up here at the end. Isiah concludes his Prophecy by telling King Ahaz that he trusted the wrong people. and since he trusted wrong then it would be his ruin.

What king Ahaz thought would be his ruin would have been his prize if he would have trusted God and the prophet.

God was sending a savior Immanuel; God with us. to be with us to save us from our own ruin. Our job as christ's followers is to Trust the one who knows the end from the beginning.

PRAYER

God, Forgive us for the times that we have not trusted you. Forgive us of the times when we couldn't have the faith to see that your plans for us are far greater than the plans we have. Give us the wisdom to TRUST you more. To trust you in our lives, in our families, in our joys, and in our tragedies.

AMEN