



## *Immanuel*

Ps. Brett Fuller, December 2, 2012

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**Isaiah 7:1-4, 7-14** *"Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it. 2 When it was reported to the house of David, saying, "The Arameans have camped in Ephraim," his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind. 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller's field, 4 and say to him, 'Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stubs of smoldering firebrands, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah... 7 thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass. 8 "For the head of Aram is Damascus and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another 65 years Ephraim will be shattered, so that it is no longer a people ), 9 and the head of Ephraim*

*is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you surely shall not last. "" 10 Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" 13 Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."*

- Here is the first mention of Immanuel – and it's not in a joyful context.
- Amos was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel; Isaiah prophetically spoke to Judah, the Southern Kingdom. Ahaz was the ruler of Judah.
- Isaiah prophesied to 4 kings of Judah; Ahaz was the grandson of Josiah, one of the great kings. Ahaz did not follow in this line of righteousness. He established idols in the land, even created them. He offered his own son a human sacrifice and encouraged his people to do the same. Even in his rebellion, God attempted to convey his love.
  - God works to extend his love & sometimes uses difficulty – He speaks directly to us thru others, but if we refuse to do so, circumstances will be used to address us.

## **I. Stuck In Unbelief; vss. 9-12**

- a. God used the circumstances to address Ahaz – thru the pressure of the nations surrounding him
- b. He sent Syria (Aram) and Israel (the Northern Kingdom) against Ahaz. He tried to fight these nations, but was defeated.
- c. God then brought Edom & Philistia against Judah – Ahaz was hemmed in by the surrounding nations in order to bring him to REPENTANCE.
  - i. This is the lesson of our circumstances when they hem us

in.

- ii. After defeats, Ahaz then faces Assyria, the great power of that time.
  - iii. Rather than responding to the God of his forefathers. Such was the ruin this king brought to Judah, he was not even buried in the Tombs of the Kings.
- d. Stuck in unbelief, God comes to Ahaz thru Isaiah
- e. God came to Ahaz to tell him of his need to submit to God and obey him.
- i. God was trying to help Ahaz, offering to give him a sign
  - ii. Yet Ahaz was silent between v. 9 & v.10. The silence of Ahaz's response prompted God to provide a sign Himself.
  - iii. Too often we are delayed in our response; we resist the help of God. Like Ahaz, we fail to rely on God
  - iv. Yet God uses the weight of our difficulties to draw us to Himself.
  - v. Like He did w/ Ahaz, God keeps drawing us, addressing our lives, speaking to us with the intent of helping us. Yet we need to come to the end of ourselves before we will receive God's help.
  - vi. We were sinners, condemned to die, yet Christ did what we needed to deliver us from our. Born with sin and that compounded by our own wrong-doing, God needed to come to us and intersect our lives. We cannot get out of our own way, yet God chooses to come and help us regardless.
- f. So God gave Ahaz the promise of Christ to build his faith.

## II. Sign By God; vs. 14a

- a. God continued to reach out and even gave him a sign – to break thru. Though He gave him the most excellent prophet who gave him a sign.
- b. The sign was that a virgin would have a child – a sign that would speak in greatness.
  - i. Prophecy has 2 applications; the immediate that is meaningful to the one who receives it and the secondary out working that is its ultimate fulfillment.
- c. We must refuse to blame God for not working as we think He should do for us. Yet, He sent Christ to show us the profound care He has; Christ is the sign of God's care.

## III. Seen By Man; vs. 14b "Behold..."

### A. Son Borne By Virgin; vs. 14c

### B. Son Named Immanuel; vs. 14d

- i. God sent His own Son with whom we could have a relationship; He sent his son who has no beginning, no end – He cannot be taken from us
- ii. The Son was eternal and that eternal Son, that Eternal God came to dwell among us as mankind. "I will be with them..." and we now have that which is eternal to relate to and hold on to and be established by.
- iii. Immanuel came to bring us the fullness of Himself in a Man so that we could know the unchanging love, steadiness, Presence came that we might have a relationship, that He might with us.
- iv. Immanuel – in the midst of our wickedness, our unbelief, our decision to go our own way – all just like Ahaz – yet He came to us.

- v. He can be born anywhere, but the stable represented the reality into which God came – both in terms of our lives and this world.
- vi. He came to be with us, that we might be with Him. Our aim this season is that, as He came to be with Him, we would truly & fully be with Him.