



"Standing Firm In Faith" (Isaiah 7:1-9:7)

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I THE TEXT

- * See Isaiah 1:1; II Kings 15:23-25, 29, 32, 34, 37; 16:1-5
- * Read Isaiah 7:1-6; Tabeel would be their new "puppet king."
- * Read Isaiah 7:7-9 In other words, repent, have faith in me, and I will save you out of their hands.
- * Read Isaiah 7:10-11 This is unusual, but God wants Ahaz to know that His Word is true, and that he can trust God to do exactly what he says He will do.
- * 7:12 This is not a response of humility, obedience, and certainly not faith!
- * 7:13-14 You don't want a sign, but I'll give you one anyway! Now we certainly know this sign had it's ultimate fulfillment in the conception and birth of Jesus Christ. But it also had to have had a fulfillment in Isaiah's day as well. Read on...
- * 7: 15 By the time this boy reaches the age of accountability, he will be eating curds and honey.
- * 7:16 Even before the boy reaches the age of accountability, the lands of Israel (northern kingdom) and Aram (Syria; Mesopotamia) will be devastated.
- * 7:17 This is incredibly ironic; see II Kings 16:7-18; Instead of repenting, putting his faith in God's Word, and the sign that accompanied it, Ahaz looked to Assyria for help. And the irony is that the very one he looked to for help turned against him (II Chron.28:20-21)...
- * 7:18-20 They would be humiliated, with the goal of being humbled. Egypt is mentioned here, because after Ahaz dies, he is succeeded by his son Hezekiah. Hezekiah calls for help from Egypt, and Egypt disappoints Hezekiah just as Assyria had Ahaz (Isaiah 30:1-5).
- * 7:21-25 Because of the devastation in the land, a farmer's young cow and two goats would have no young to nurse, so the milk (and curds from it) would be plentiful. Honey would also be abundant, because wild flowers would grow in the desolate fields (thus lots of bees).

* Note: The fulfillment of this verse in Isaiah's day most likely involved a woman known to Ahaz who was a virgin at the time of the prophecy, then married and named her child Immanuel. We know of no details of this child or the mother, probably because, while both children were to be a sign, the second one was to also be a Savior!

* 8:12-13 Do not fear when nations ally themselves together against you, but rather trust the Lord.

* 8:14-15 References to Messiah/Jesus

* 8:16-17 Stick to the Word, wait on the Lord!

* 8:18 As we remain faithful, we will be witnesses in our world

* 8:19-22 This is the fate of the faithless

* 9:1-2 This is the future hope for the faithful; Note: Those who were first to have foreigners invade their land, be deported to foreign lands, and have foreigners imported to their land, will be the first to have the light dawn where they dwell.

* 9:5 This takes us now beyond the first coming of Christ to His second coming...this is the hope we look forward to!

* 9:6-7

II. LESSONS IN THE TEXT

A. A Disheartening Experience

B. A Word Of Hope

* Ahaz and the majority did not respond to God's Word, so the very one they trusted in (Assyria) would on day come against them...

C. A Prophetic Sign

* Whether you want it or not, whether you accept it or not, the sign has been given, and His name is Jesus (say "Jesus" with me).

D. An Important Warning (8:11)

* Do not fear what they fear (man)

* Don't let go of the Word of God (8:16)

* Be patient, especially in times when the Lord has "hidden himself" (8:17).

- Illus: Story of king out hunting with his servant...

* Don't look for answers in the places the world looks for answers (8:19).

- Ahaz depended on Assyria, and the people consulted mediums and spiritists;
Judah trusted in Egypt...

- See II Chron.28:22-25

E. A Past Prophetic Fulfillment & A Glorious Prophetic Future (9:1-7).

* As we look back at Jesus' first prophetic coming, we can with great hope look forward to His soon second prophetic coming! And as we wait, we witness to the world (as Isaiah did). Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!

F. Standing Firm In Our Faith

1. Hope by faith

- Rom.4: 18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 19 Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead--since he was about a hundred years old--and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20 Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

2. Peace by faith

- Isaiah 26: 3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

3. Joy by faith

* Habakkuk probably ministered after the reign of Hezekiah, when the threat would come from Babylon (which is where the current threat to Israel & America is coming from)...see Habakkuk 1:13b; 2:4b, 14; 3:16-19.

4. Patience/perseverance by faith

* Habakkuk 3:16b ...Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us.

* See Rom.8:23-25

5. The main focus: Jesus (Isa.7:14;28:16; Heb.2:9)

* I John 5: 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

CONCLUSION

* Psalm 73

* Need your faith renewed tonight? Get your eyes on Jesus...

