

God with Us
The Prophecy
Isaiah 7:1-25

Introduction

1. When you study the Bible, you need to adopt the mindset of a treasure hunter. If you skim through a passage you often miss the riches God has for you.
2. Join me on a treasure-hunting expedition in a chapter known for one prophecy often reserved for Christmas time: Isaiah 7:14

The prophecy of Jesus' birth was given:

1. Through the wicked King Ahaz. Vs. 1-2

- He was not a godly king like David. II Chron. 28:1-4
- He followed the ways of the ungodly kings of Israel by:
 - leading in idol worship. - sacrificing in the "high places."
 - sacrificing his sons in the fire

NOTE: God gave this critical prophecy of Christ's coming through an ungodly man.

2. In troubling times. II Chron. 28:5-7, 16

- The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was under attack by an alliance of Syria and Israel.
- King Ahaz responded by forming an alliance with an ungodly nation, Assyria, contrary to God's will. This set up Isaiah's meeting with Ahaz.

3. Along with the promise of Divine judgment. Is. 7:14

- The promise was a sign from God: a miraculous virgin birth.
 - The child's name was unique: God with us.
- Bad news: The King of Assyria that Ahaz depended upon would bring about Judah's destruction. Vs. 17

4. With a life-transforming warning. Vs. 9

- The warning: "If you are not firm in the faith, you will not be firm at all."

Lessons to be Applied

1. God can teach us spiritual lessons using ungodly people. Watch for teachable moments.
2. God's Word gives us strength in the worst of times. Trust His promises.
3. The Virgin Birth of Christ points to His Deity. Trust and serve Him!

Remember: Jesus is the reason for the season!

Isaiah 7:1-25 - In 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. 2 When 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. 3 And 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. 4 And 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. 5 Because 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," 7 thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. 8 For 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. 9 And 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." 10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." 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? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

II Chron. 28:1-7 - Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done, 2 but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, 3 and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. 5 Therefore the LORD his God gave him into the hand of the king of Syria, who defeated him and took captive a great number of his people and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hand of the king of Israel, who struck him with great force. 6 For Pekah the son of Remaliah killed 120,000 from Judah in one day, all of them men of valor, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. 7 And Zichri, a mighty man of Ephraim, killed Maaseiah the king's son and Azrikam the commander of the palace and Elkanah the next in authority to the king.

II Chron. 28:16 - At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help.