



**Advent 2019 – He Will Be Called**  
**Wk. 1 Immanuel**  
**By Pastor Jody May**

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**Isaiah 7:1-16 ESV**

**Isaiah Sent to King Ahaz**

**7** 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, <sup>6</sup> “Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it<sup>[d]</sup> for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,” <sup>7</sup> thus says the Lord God:

“It shall not stand,  
and it shall not come to pass.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you<sup>[e]</sup> are not firm in faith,  
you will not be firm at all.”

**The Sign of Immanuel**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put



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the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The 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!”

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**Introduction: Who was Isaiah? (Prophet, Southern Kingdom, Syro-Ephraimite War, Assyria)**

**1. God always comes with the first and most needed gift, TRUST.**

**Who is Ahaz?**

**7** 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.

This is a bad time for the people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Ahaz (736 BC) is the son of King Jotham and has been leading the kingdom for his father who had contracted leprosy. Ahaz is nothing like his grandfather King Uzziah who was known to be a pretty good king but he has left the Godly examples of his predecessors and has decided to **embrace paganism fully**, and he looks nothing like what the kings of his day were to look like, holy and separated from the world, a physical picture of what the Lord was to look like.

**2 Chronicles 28:1-4 ESV**

**28** 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, <sup>2</sup> but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, <sup>3</sup> and he made offerings in the Valley of



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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.<sup>4</sup> And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

Ahaz looks just like everyone else (other national rulers) BUT it's even worse. God had made a personal covenant/promise to his ancestor David (**2 Sam. 7:12-16**). Meaning the line of David was to uphold above all true God worship leading the people in how to live for God, and while at the same time God would bless the people through their king and if not, God promised the rod of discipline for that king. Because of Ahaz's choices we see the nation of Judah suffer a tremendous blow physically, emotionally, and spiritually. **(Instead of having all of it on the screen I will read it to them from 2 Chronicles 28)**

This explains what we see in vs. 2:

<sup>2</sup>When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with<sup>[a]</sup> Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz<sup>[b]</sup> and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

I don't know if you or I have ever been in this type of fear and dismay. I mean Ahaz is reaping the consequences of his behavior so why would the Lord do anything to get him or Judah out of this? **But see that is the good news this Christmas because our God is full of STEADFAST LOVE and desires to rescue you exactly when you think it's hopeless.** When everyone else would give up on you God sends HOPE! Right now, God is bringing hope to His people because Jesus secured a new promise/covenant through His righteous behavior, even when the enemy is crouching at our door, it will always work for our good because our King is the best!

<sup>3</sup>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.



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“Isaiah, go find Ahaz when he is in the midst of his prep work for what he sees as an unavoidable siege. And take your boy, Shear-jashub with you as a sign.” The kid’s name means “a remnant shall return”. It is the first sign to Ahaz – **TRUST ME**, I am in this with you. I am sending you a first-born Son, on purpose so that you know I am speaking to you through Him, in the flesh, that my people, your line will not be wiped out. Ahaz it’s bad but TRUST me this is not the end. “Isaiah when you get his attention with your son tell him why”:

**<sup>4</sup>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.**

“Ahaz, don’t resort to hasty decisions, be careful, stop barking orders for a minute, be quiet and remember who you are and who I am, and do not fear even in the midst of hostile threats! Both Syria and Israel, are done, I am finished with them smacking you around. I allowed this to happen, they are smoldering stumps, they are finished.”

Perhaps this morning you find yourself unable to trust God because this year you tasted defeat. I bet for a lot of us, that right now, we have a problem Trusting God, even though we are His remnant, even though Salvation is based on His promises, because you have lived this year in such a way that you deserve what has happened to you.

Here at the beginning of Advent let me extend to you the same message that Isaiah extended all those years ago, it doesn’t matter what you have done, **God wants you to TRUST Him for your Salvation**. He provided His son Jesus in the flesh with a name that means “to deliver”. Will you TRUST in God’s gracious gift today delivered to you by His Son and put the hope of a better 2020 through Jesus’ name in your heart? Will you accept that He loves you even though you have not deserved it? It was to Ahaz’s detriment that he didn’t, don’t let that become your story.

**2. God’s second gift is DELIVERANCE that must be opened by FAITH.**



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<sup>5</sup> Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, <sup>6</sup> “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,” <sup>7</sup> thus says the Lord God:

“It shall not stand,  
and it shall not come to pass.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you<sup>w</sup> are not **firm** in **faith**,  
you will not be **firm** at all.”

God’s message through Isaiah is to tell Ahaz the TRUTH of what he sees. Both Rezin and Remaliah were done. In this prophecy you should know that Syria was conquered 3 years later in 732BC by the Assyrians and Israel was conquered in 722BC as well and the Northern Kingdom ceased to exist. As we said last week God knows all things, He plans all things, and He rewards all people according to their deeds.

Maybe you’re afraid right now to take chances in life because over the past year you have learned some things the hard way and it has you a little timid about life. You are ready to build up barriers, to barricade yourself in your life, close the emotional walls around you. Perhaps you and I need to understand that what the Devil meant to destroy you, God used that to make you stronger in Him and more reliant on His Son. Please hear the Word of the Lord and receive strength from His TRUTH this morning.

**Psalm 33:10-22 ESV**



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- <sup>10</sup> The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;  
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
- <sup>11</sup> The counsel of the Lord stands forever,  
the plans of his heart to all generations.
- <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the **people** whom he has **chosen** as his **heritage!**
- <sup>13</sup> The Lord looks down from heaven;  
he sees all the children of man;
- <sup>14</sup> from where he sits enthroned he looks out  
on all the inhabitants of the earth,
- <sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all  
and observes all their deeds.
- <sup>16</sup> The king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> The war horse is a false hope for salvation,  
and by its great might it cannot rescue.
- <sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> that he may deliver their soul from death  
and keep them alive in famine.
- <sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> For our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.
- <sup>22</sup> **Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.**

And just like Ahaz though, the TRUTH of this Gospel only comes alive if you BELIEVE it, if you open this gift of God by FAITH.

If you are not **firm** in **faith**,  
you will not be **firm** at all.



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You can translate the text like this – **“You either stand by FAITH or you will not stand at all.”** There is no other way to conquer your fear of the world or conquer your fear of man. If we do not try and TRUST God in all matters of life we cannot stand. With FAITH we have the full weight of the steadfast love of the Lord, but without it we will make some foolish choices in trying to fight fear without Him. God knows this and saves His best gift last, a **gift that gets His people to TRUST** Him.

**3. God’s last gift is guaranteed and eternal, His Presence – IMMANUEL.**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Don’t be fooled at first glance, you may be thinking that Ahaz is just showing humility, he knows not to ask for a sign, not to put God to the test. But what was happening is that **God first gave the ok to ask for the sign**, a chance to show Ahaz and the Kingdom that right after this great defeat, He plans to stay with them and deliver them. Ahaz’s refusal was not about humility, **it was his refusal to put his Trust and Faith in the Lord**. Ahaz had already made up his mind to side with Assyria, to send King Tiglath-pileser gold from the temple, to buy his allegiance. Assyria heard the call of Ahaz, yes, they did conquer Syria and the Northern Kingdom, and he also put Ahaz and Judah under his thumb for the rest of Ahaz’s life forcing him to pay tribute and become a vassal of the Kingdom of Assyria serving their interests and desires.

<sup>17</sup> The 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!”



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Ahaz bought his enslavement when God wanted to bail him out. BUT because God is just and keep His promises, He would not forget His promise to David even though Ahaz did not want Him.

**AND most of all thank God**, that it doesn't keep God from providing for His people a sign! To look around Ahaz and look forward to the true king and to give him a title so that the people would know that God did deliver for Himself a remnant.

Just so you know historically this is a double prophecy. There was another baby born, a second son to Isaiah in chapter 8 which was the sign of Ahaz's downfall. It would also mean, that God would stay with the remnant that He had already promised would make it, He would ensure the royal line and would ensure a remnant of God believers, people who would model TRUST and FAITH of the better King, Jesus.

And here's where I want to make one last plea with you my family today. Maybe, up to this point you have been pushing back on the love of God. Perhaps you believe that the sin you have committed in your life was too great for God to ignore. **That's just it, He doesn't ignore anything He judges all and all sin must be accounted for.** That means our biggest sins, like Ahaz who was a murder of his own flesh and blood, was offered forgiveness to believe by faith that God would save him and the kingdom. Unfortunately, it was too late for Ahaz because he didn't want to change, he preferred to put his trust in himself instead of God. But if today, if you heed the message of TRUSTING GOD, if you seek deliverance by putting your FAITH in Him, specifically that Jesus' perfect life and death was enough to take even your darkest sin, you can start 2020 out debt free!

This Christmas, let's celebrate over the next month all these wonderful titles that God has laid upon His Son and let's celebrate what it means to have a savior with the title IMMANUEL, "God is with us!"

**PRAY**





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**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that gave the sign of His Son so we know we can place all our TRUST in Him.

Go in the name of the Son, that came and was the better King providing us all the blessings of the New Covenant.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that gives the gift of FAITH so that we may share the story of our deliverance with those around us.