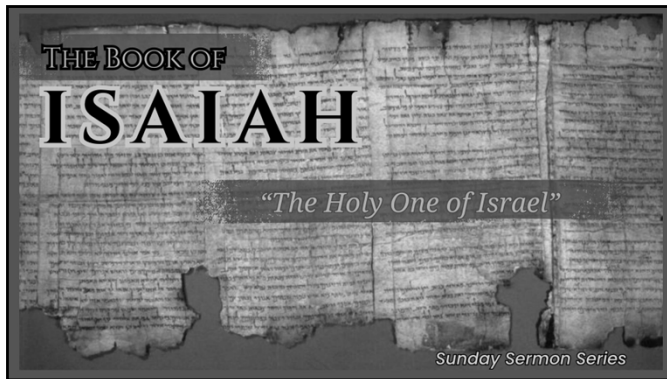




1

¹ In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, became king. ² Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD his God, as his father David *had done*. ³ But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and even made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had driven out from before the sons of Israel. ⁴ He sacrificed and burned incense on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree. (2 Kings 16:1-4)

2

Isaiah 7:1-2

¹ 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



4

Isaiah 7:3-9

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. ⁵ Because Aram, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying, ⁶ "Let us go up against Judah and terrorize it, and make for ourselves a breach in its walls and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," ⁷ thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass.

5

Isaiah 7:3-9

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."

6

Whom Will You Trust?

1. The Moment of Decision

- Ahaz is told not to fear, or to rely on Assyria – trust the Lord to keep His promise to the house of David
- if Ahaz will not believe the Lord's word, it will lead to certain disaster for him and Judah

7

Whom Will You Trust?

➤ Principle

- faith is the central reality of God's people – "without faith it is impossible to please Him..." (Heb. 11:6)

Q: Are you trusting in God's word in Christ – the full forgiveness of your sins, the hope of resurrection, the return of Jesus and His eternal kingdom?

8

Whom Will You Trust?

2. An Extraordinary Sign

A. A Sign Offered

- the seriousness of the crisis and the importance of faith are seen in the Lord's gracious offer of a sign
- Ahaz's refusal to ask demonstrates His unbelief – he does not want to believe

9

Whom Will You Trust?

2. An Extraordinary Sign

B. A Sign Given

- the sign of "Immanuel" – an enigmatic sign that predicts both judgment and (veiled) hope
- in great irony, the Lord will bring the Assyrians as His instrument of judgment on Ahaz and Judah

10

Whom Will You Trust?

The Sign of Immanuel

- Fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:23)
 - miraculous conception and birth by a virgin – "He shall be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:35)
 - the ultimate meaning of "Immanuel" – God come in the flesh to dwell with us

11