

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

**Ahaz
Had
Trouble**

Isaiah 7:1-17

Lesson Thirteen

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

Isaiah

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Ahaz Had Trouble

The seventh chapter of Isaiah is about a military crisis. Up north, in a country called Assyria, a King named Tiglath-pileser III (Tig'-lath-pill-E'-zer) was building a great nation through the use of a great army. His whole nation was a war machine with soldiers and fighting equipment as the major national product. He had conquered many nations around him, and was ready to take over Samaria and Judah. Ahaz, the king of Judah was really frightened. There were two kings who were neighbors of Judah, Rezin, (Rez'n) king of Syria and Pekah, (Pee'-kaa) the king of Israel. These two kings wanted Ahaz to join them in a united army against Tiglath-pileser. Ahaz refused.

When these two kings joined in an attack on Judah, Ahaz was really afraid. He was so afraid that he did an awful thing. He burned his own son as a sacrifice to God, maybe hoping that God would help him defeat the attackers. (We find that story in II Kings 16:3)

While this was going on, the King came out to inspect the water supply into Jerusalem. The water came from a spring and was carried into the city in channels cut into the rock. Ahaz was probably wanting to check it out before the city was attacked. Isaiah was guided by God to go out and meet Ahaz. He took his son, Shear-Jashub. (Shear-Ja'shub) We don't know why God wanted Isaiah to take his son with him to the meeting, but it could have been because his name means "a remnant shall return." (*Remnant* means what is left, like what is cut off of a board and not used in the building.) Ahaz would have seen this as both a warning and a promise. A warning that many would be taken away by the enemy, and a promise that some would remain and live in the land.

Isaiah tells Ahaz that he should not fear, that the two kings were not a real threat, but we find elsewhere in the Bible that Ahaz did not believe Isaiah and began to make a bargain with Tiglath-pileser to help him defeat Rezin and Pekah.

Isaiah told Ahaz to have faith. He said, "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." This is a very important verse. It refers to faith as critical to a relationship with God. It is an Old Testament reference to what we find as a central New Testament truth.

Abraham's faith was credited as righteousness. This verse has been translated in several ways: "If you will not be sure, you cannot be secure." or "If you will not affirm, you will not be confirmed," or "If you don't take your stand in faith, you won't have a leg to stand on."

Page Two

Isaiah

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In the middle of this chapter God challenges Ahaz to ask for a sign. A sign is something God does to assure His people that He is with them...or to assure someone else that He is the true God. God, through Moses, delivered ten terrible signs to the Egyptians. Ahaz knew that if he asked for a sign and one had been given, he would have had to change a lot of things that he didn't want to change. So he refused to ask for a sign. That is the way it is with a lot of people. They don't want to hear from God. They won't spend time reading the Bible. They are unwilling to listen to Christian teachers and preachers. If they did any of these things, they would have to change.

God then told Isaiah to let Ahaz know that there was going to be a sign whether he liked it or not. (Verse 14) This sign would be the birth of a son to a young woman. Here it seems obvious that the young woman would either be the wife of Isaiah or Ahaz. This child will be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." Now, many children had "EL" in their names; Elijah, Elimelech, more than 110 different Old Testament names. **EL** is the short version of **Elohim**, one of the Hebrew names for God. So, it seems obvious that God was promising someone who had a part in the saving of Judah. That saving took place in the year 732BC when Tiglath-pileser conquered the northern Kingdom, Israel, but did not destroy Judah. Ahaz had trouble, but God promised him that He was stronger than the any enemy of Judah. Both of the kings, Rezin and Pekah, would be defeated and would be no threat to Judah, but the Assyrians would be a threat for many years. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian, would defeat Judah.

The promise of a young woman bearing a child is quoted in Matthew 1:23. Matthew calls it the fulfillment of a prophesy. In Matthew, we understand that this child is Jesus. His mother was a young woman, a virgin, who was visited by an angel who told her that she would be the mother of the Son of God.

The child referred to in Isaiah seems to be more of a sign of the timing of God's work. The child referred to in Matthew is a Savior, saving His people from their sins. Both speak of promise. The child in Isaiah gives Judah hope, but the Savior, Jesus, would change the circumstances of all people for all time. He offered salvation to all who will believe. He was, and is, the Son of God. He wants to be, and will be, your Savior, if only you will ask Him.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Page Three

Scripture Memory: "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Lesson Goal: To encourage students to depend on God for hope, in Christ.

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Student Worksheet

Ahaz Had Trouble—Isaiah 7:1-17

As the teacher goes through the lesson, listen for answers to these:

1. Who were the two kings who were neighbors of Judah?
2. What does Isaiah's son's name mean?
3. What is an Old Testament reference to what we find as a central New Testament truth?
4. What is a "sign?"
5. Why didn't Ahaz, and a lot of people today, want to hear from God?
6. Isaiah 7:14 is quoted in Matthew 1:23. To whom does it refer there?

Scripture Memory: "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.