

Oh Come Let us Adore Him

Part 1

“Emanuel”

Isaiah 7

When Ahaz was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah, king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

2 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. 4 Say to him, **‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid.** Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood —because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, 6 “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.”

7 Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“It will not take place,
it will not happen,

8

for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

9

The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son.

**If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.”**

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 **“Ask the Lord your God for a sign,** whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Judah was surrounded with conflict

first off, **Ahaz** was not a good king, He was a wicked king of Judah, worshipping other gods and even sacrificing his son to Molech (2 Kings 16:1-4). The only good thing Ahaz ever did was father Hezekiah, who became a righteous king of Judah after him.

- The attack on Jerusalem was ultimately unsuccessful, but the war against Judah took a great toll against them, recorded in 2 Chronicles 28
- The king of Israel, killed one hundred and twenty thousand valiant men in Judah, in one day, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.
- The Syrian army carried away a great multitude of them as captives.
- The king of Israel also captured 200,000 men, women and children as captives, but sent them back to Judah at the command of the prophet Oded.

All in all, by the time the events of this chapter unfold, the nation of Judah had faced terrible calamity, and was devastated. As the combined armies of Israel and Syria approached Jerusalem, it looked like *everything* would be lost.

King Ahaz was faced with the challenged to trust God when things were bad, and it looked like all would be lost.

Vs. 4 - The Lord brings a Word to Ahaz

Then the Lord said to Isaiah... 4 “Say to him, ‘**Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid.** Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood”...

- Ahaz would not have known what having God on his side must have felt like...

- But it's true when God's presence in the battle is for you...
- Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid.

The Apostle Paul was familiar with this kind of reassurance.

2 Timothy 4:17

"But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength..."

NKJV records it like this:

'Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted

Take heed, and be quiet: Seemingly, Ahaz needed to pay attention and stop his talking about the problem.

do not fear or be fainthearted: The word of the Lord said; He needed to trust God and take courage in the LORD.

- Perhaps also, the calamity and devastation that had wrecked Judah thus far had made Ahaz stop trusting in God.

The Lord offers Ahaz a Sign

Vs. 10,11

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 **"Ask the Lord your God for a sign,** whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

12 But Ahaz said, **"I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."**

Ask the Lord your God for a sign: Through the prophet Isaiah, God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign. God has just challenged Ahaz to believe and be blessed, and now God offers to give Ahaz a basis for belief.

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, I will not put the Lord to the test.": This *sounds* very spiritual. Almost sounds like what Jesus said in Matthew 4:7: *"You shall not tempt the LORD your God."* Though the words are similar, the hearts are very different.

This was not tempting or testing God in the wrong way. It is never testing God to do as He says, and if the LORD invites us to test Him, we should. For example, in Malachi 3:10

“Ask the Lord your God for a sign”

What does a Sign mean here?

Sign: owt

- in the sense of appearing; a Signal.
 - A. a distinguished mark
 - B. beacon
 - C. monument, reminder
 - D. banner
 - E. warning

Vs. 13,14

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?”

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Lord says: “I will give you a Signal, a distinguished mark, a beacon, a monument, a banner, a warning.”

- He is to the righteous a distinguished mark, beacon and banner...
- But to the wicked he is a warning...

Luke 2:34,35

Simeon the Priest said of Jesus, “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and **to be a sign** that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Luke 2:12

The Angels said to the Shepherds in the field, “**This will be a sign** to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Vs. 14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Immanuel: God with us

Closing:

This Christmas Season we have the same promise for you and I...

The Lord himself has given us a sign: The virgin has already conceived and give birth to a son, and we call him Immanuel...

He is a Signal.

- A. a distinguished mark
- B. beacon
- C. monument, reminder
- D. banner
- E. warning

Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid.
(be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted)

stand firm in your faith

Ahaz didn't deserve God's Mercy
But God said this will be a Sign to you **God is with you...**

When troubles surrounded...
When Hopelessness tries setting in...
Remember he is with you...
Call on the Name of the Lord and He will help you...

Oh Come Let us Adore Him: He is Immanuel - God with Us