

Jesus: Why So Many Names? Outline

Isaiah 6 & 7

I. What's in a name?

- A. The names of Jesus reveal His character, status, His work and His position. His name reveals *who* he is.

II. The book of Isaiah.

- A. The “gospel of the Old Testament”
- B. Isaiah prophesied when Israel was a divided country: the northern kingdom (Israel/Ephraim and ten tribes) and the southern kingdom (Judah, two tribes).
- C. The purpose of Isaiah: To call on the nation of Israel to repent from their evil ways and return to God.
 - 1. Isaiah a warning to Israel of impending judgement.

III. “Trees and prophets”.

- A. Both share one characteristic—both are planted for the future.
 - 1. Trees begin as seeds—they can be ignored and unseen. They turn into trees that can't be ignored and unseen.
 - 2. Prophets can prophesy and be ignored, but when the prophesy comes to fruition, it cannot be ignored!

IV. Isaiah the prophet.

- A. Isaiah is commissioned by God to preach to a people who will not listen (Ch.6:9-10).
 - 1. **For how long Lord? *How long will I have to keep preaching to deaf ears?***
 - a. *“Until all the trees are cut down!”* (6: 11-12).
 - 2. There will be a remnant (6:13).

V. Ahaz the king (chapter 7).

- A. Ahaz the new king of Judah. A terrible, flawed man.
 - 1. Jerusalem sieged by the northern kingdom and Aram/Syria, (7:1)
 - 2. Ahaz is disturbed, frightened, stressed and anxious (7:2).
 - 3. Ahaz is in the Davidic line of royalty (7:2)

- a. The greatest king of kings will come through the line of David!

VI. Isaiah to Ahaz.

- A. **“Take care and stay quiet”** = Take care to do nothing!—*don't go out and make evil alliances because you're afraid!* (7:4)
- B. Cause of Ahaz's stress:
 - 1. Fierce anger of the alliance (7:4).
 - 2. Evil counsel between the alliance (7:5)
 - 3. Fear of leadership change (losing his job) (7:6)
- C. The northern kingdom will be shattered, “no longer a people” (7:7-8)
 - 1. Many will die, put in captivity, intermarry with the Assyrians (become the Samaritans).
- D. TRUST IN THE LORD OR FALL INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS... STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH OR YOU WILL NOT STAND AT ALL.

VII. The signs (7:10-14).

- A. The refusal of Ahaz to make a sign (7:11-13)
- B. God makes a sign for Ahaz (7:14).
 - 1. The prophesy has an *immediate fulfillment* and a *future fulfillment*.
 - a. Immediate fulfillment—Isaiah's young wife will have a son. He will be a sign that God was with them and came through with exactly what He promised Ahaz.
 - b. Future fulfillment—The coming Messiah shall be born of a virgin and literally will be “God with us”. Confirmed in Matthew 1:18-23.

“For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body” (Colossians 2:9, NLT). **Jesus left the glories of heaven and took on the form of a servant so that He could identify with us in our day-to-day human struggles** (Philippians 2:6–11; Hebrews 4:15–16). Immanuel is our Savior (1 Timothy 1:15).

VIII. Curds and honey (7:15).

- A. The Davidic line of succession ended at the captivity, approx 600 years before Christ—then continued one more time!
- B. Curds and honey—the food of poverty.

1. Jesus was born a baby wrapped in cheap cloths, in a manger...

Jesus: Why So Many Names? Pastoral Notes

Isaiah 6 & 7

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet.” William Shakespeare uses this line in his play Romeo and Juliet to convey that the naming of things is irrelevant.

Juliet is not allowed to associate with Romeo because he is a Montague. If he had any other name it would be fine. She's complaining that his name is meaningless. If the rose had any other name it would still be the same. So with Romeo; he would still be the same beautiful young man even if he had a different name.

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” Juliet knows that the blood feud prevents her from loving a Montague. She ponders it. *It's only your name that's the enemy. You are what you are, even though you may be a Montague. What's 'Montague'?*

It isn't hand or foot or arm or face or any other part belonging to a man. Oh I wish you had a different name. What is so special about a name? A rose, even if it were called something else, would smell just as sweet. So Romeo would still have all the perfection that he has, even if he were not called Romeo. Romeo, take off your name and in exchange for that whole name, which is not really a part of what you are, you can have all of me.

A rose is a rose regardless if it is called a rose... what you call something... its name is irrelevant...God disagrees!

There is no exhaustive list of the names of God in the Bible... one has counted over 650... I know of 19 names God is mostly referred by... Jesus, the second person of the Trinity...God... has some 200 names and titles found in the Bible... 27 are the most prominent.

Why so many names?

All the names of God the Father... God the Son.... and you could include the Holy Spirit actually reveal who God is... they reflect the triune Gods nature... position and work... they mean something.... Being the Christmas season... a close look at the names of Jesus in God's word reveals to us who Jesus Christ the Lord was, is and will be...

This morning and next Sunday, Christmas Eve... I want us to learn about Jesus by looking at some of His names...all in the context of the Christmas story...only one name this morning...a few more next week.... All revealed through the prophet of Isaiah... Isaiah is on my short list of favorite books of the Bible... if you ever want to dive into the entire Bible... do an in-depth study of the book of Isaiah...

It will give you a tour through the entire bible... it will lead you to the historical books... the prophetic books... and the gospels of the New Testament... in fact...Isiah has been called the "Gospel of the Old Testament"

Isaiah was speaking during the time where the original nation of Israel had been divided into two kingdoms... Israel (Ephraim and ten of the twelve tribes) to the north... and Judah to the south... The northern kingdom had sinned greatly against God... the southern kingdom was not far behind...

The overarching purpose of Isaiah is to call on God's people who have left God...been unfaithful... disobedient and embraced idols...making alliances with pagan nations...Isaiah was to call on the nation of Judah to return back to the one true God of the universe...repent.... And tell them about God's salvation through the coming Messiah...

The prophesy of Isaiah is mostly one of warning... a warning that unless they repent and turn back to God... destruction was eminent.... I originally was going to just concentrate on the first seven verses of chapter 9..... we looked at some of that last week.

But the glorious problem with Isaiah is that as you start to get into it... it makes you hungrier for more... it is such a rich book!..[expound]... it is so relevant to us today...I am challenging you to get into this with me this morning... the events that led to one of the greatest names of Jesus.

Someone made a comparison of **trees and prophets**. Based on chapter six of Isaiah.

Trees and prophets share at least one important characteristic... **both are planted for the future**... you have this little seedling that has dropped to the ground... you can walk right over it and ignore it... but there will come a time in the future where it will be a tree and you will not be able to ignore it.

Prophets in the Old Testament are like that... they deliver their God directed... God given message to His wayward people... and like the seed....*they walk right over it*... They ignore it... Isaiah is one of the best examples of this... (close is Jeremiah).

The people Isaiah spoke to were headed for destruction (which was immanent) and *had* they listened to Isaiah's words...if they would have stopped and paid attention to the seeds.... they would have been rescued!...they would have avoided persecution... judgement, death....captivity... **The prophesy when it comes to fruition cannot be ignored!**

Isaiah is in the Bible for us to read to day... we are in a time not much different than Israel in 700 BC....

We have God's word... and even "Christians" are ignoring it like a seed... and yet... more than any other time...we should stop... bend down and look at the ground and study the seed.... God gave Isaiah a prophesy for the people of Israel 2700 years ago... most of that has taken place exactly as Isaiah revealed in his book....

And there is still some vital prophesy that is on our horizon....this book is for us today.... .
God's final judgement on all humanity is imminent... we need to pay attention while there is still time

Isaiah was a prophet during the reign of the kings... read about that in 1 & 2nd Kings... but he didn't set out to be a prophet... Isaiah had a respectable career as a scribe during the reign of king Uzziah... when Uzziah died... God had a career change in mind for Isaiah... Isaiah had a most unforgettable encounter with God (chapter 6).

Most of you know the results of that encounter... Isaiah...after a heart wrenching confession and repentance... followed by God's forgiveness.... The Lord asked Isaiah *who can I send to be My prophet?..* and Isaiah responded in those classic words **Here I am. Send me!**... and then God gives Isaiah the specifics... He tells him to go preach to His people.... but God was upfront with Isaiah by telling him *...you'll preach but they won't listen to you!*

Encouraging words to a preacher!...Spend three or four years in seminary.... Study your entire life... then preach to the church... *You are going to preach and they are all going to be sleeping!*

Read Isaiah 6:9-10

They're all asleep as he preached...

Oh...that's not all...there was a few that listened... a remnant... God's true people were always a remnant... verse 13 is God's plan for this small.... Remnant that listened to Isaiah.

[not so different today... even though the media tells us that church attendance is fading fast in America... there are many churches full of people...and yet not all those who fill the seats in a church are listening!... I'm afraid that the true church is like the remnant of Israel.]

When will people finally listen?... what will get their attention?.... when will the church in America wake up?... that's what Isaiah is getting at when he asks the Lord in verse 11...**For how long Lord?... how long will I have to keep preaching to deaf ears?**...God answers:

Read verse 11

God through Isaiah takes us back to the trees.... .Had they embraced the word of God... the forest would have been seen as thriving...Instead... the forest is seen as cut down...Israel

through judgement...and MOST will be lost!...they will be taken from their land...they will no longer be a people.... Put into captivity.....

Read verse 12

(13) **Yet there will be a tenth portion in it...** you see... most of “God’s so called people” will reject God and will be severely judged... they will be removed from their land... but there will be a tenth of them still in the land....

Isaiah calls them a **holy seed**...a few faithful followers of God....a few people who during those tough, tough days of judgement will hear the words of Isaiah...

Read verse 13

God compared His people trees... **the terebinth and the oak**...the trees had to be cut down... judged for their inequities...in the picture of the trees...they are now but stumps... the trees are not all dead... there is life in their stumps... and from that stump sprouts and grows a new tree.... God through Isaiah is speaking about a future time...

And we are on the other side and a part of that future time... we can look back and see that these promises God spoke through Isaiah was fulfilled through His Son Jesus Christ.... We will get there soon.

Well... chapter seven begins in the year 734 before Christ [remember! This is all taking place 7 centuries before Jesus was born a baby in Bethlehem!!!]... Ahaz is king of Judea...in Jerusalem, the southern kingdom...

Ahaz is a terrible king...a horribly flawed man... but he is king of Judah... from the line of David.

The northern kingdom... just to show you how far they strayed from God... thinking they could save themselves... **made alliances with a pagan enemy**... Syria... or ARAM as it is here...[we can learn so much from divided Israel!... always a picture of all mankind throughout history!...]

Anyway...this alliance is about to attack the southern kingdom Judea.... King Ahaz...he’s hearing about this... he’s seeing all this in his mind’s eye...and he is shaking in his boots.

King Ahaz is a picture of faithlessness in Almighty God... he is one of God’s chosen people... He could grab on to the promises of Almighty God...he’s had access to God’s word...he knows the story... has a prophet trying to guide him here... and yet...

He looks around and the world is bigger than his God... as far as he can see... God’s a good idea... God’s a nice thought... don’t want to disassociate with him... *I’ll go to church and*

everything...but let's be practical!... there are big threats in the world... I need to do what will work!...having faith in something is not going to cut it!... I need to do something myself!

Well the siege happened...

Read 7:1-2

The armies of Aram (Syria) and Ephraim (Israel) make a siege on Jerusalem... it was horrible but they failed to conquer it...but what it did do was make the Jerusalem, the Southern kingdom very nervous....

Important to realize that Syria (Aram) is a different country and people than the Assyrians... the Assyrians made up the evil mighty empire in Mesopotamia... and Syria is on the other side of the Crescent Valley neighboring Israel... it is still there today....it is also

Important to make the connection here with the *house of David*...we're getting the picture of the reign of David and his successors...this is important for Christmas... King Ahaz. As worthless as he is... was one of those successors of David's dynasty...about 240 years after David and after a host of kings from David's line.... ***But coming is the greatest of all kings***... in the dynasty of David.

By the way...here's trees again! ...***the trees are still standing but they are swaying in the winds!***...The alliance attacked Jerusalem... (2 Chronicles 28)... but they did not take Jerusalem...the new king of Judea... king Ahaz is really having heart palpitations!...

(3) **So the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub [Share-Yah-shube]...** what's in a name?... Shear Jashub in Hebrew means *A remnant shall return*... Amazing... that name is not a coincidence...

Years ago when this baby boy was born... Isaiah names him *a remnant shall return*... which was purely symbolic... a foreshadowing of when there would be a remnant of God's people that remained faithful to God. (holy seeds)

So Ahaz is still shaking in his boots...All he can see is his imagination...listening to the news... The Lord tells Isaiah to say to Ahaz:

7:4a say to him 'take care and stay quiet...have no fear and do not be fainthearted...

Let's stop there... this isn't saying *just stay calm and don't worry...everything is going to be ok...* this is the idea of ***being careful to do nothing***...in other words... *be careful Ahaz and don't do anything.... Anything that you will most likely do... will bring you to destruction....*

Isaiah knew Ahab's problem... Ahab was looking around and saw the huge threat of being destroyed by the enemy...(the shadows of Assyria are circling Ahaz's mind).. What he saw was

an enemy too large for him to survive an attack... and HE NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.... and that would be... to make alliances bad alliances with other pagan enemies.... Ephraim (Israel) and Syria...

Isaiah is telling him DON'T DO ANYTHING like that... because the real problem is NOT the enemy... *the real issue is not politics or having the right military tactics... the real issue is...DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD Ahaz?*

Isaiah is trying to get through to his thick head that the Lord can be trusted to keep His promises to His people and take care of this military threat—and He did by the way... in His time, read Isaiah 37.

Ahab is looking for salvation (from the Assyrians) through his own works rather than trusting on the divine promises of God....

If only Ahab could be persuaded to do nothing—keep clear of compromising alliances... *do you think this might possibly be great advice for us today?*... we look around... the world is in front of us... as Christians.... we are being attacked for everything we stand on.... Everything we believe...

Family members are defecting the faith and embracing the shifting winds of the culture... pastors are promoting biblical compromise for the sake of inclusivity and equity?...

Would it not be easier... more *practical* to not fight it... to compromise a little...to join forces rather than to preach repentance?...that's so very offensive!..... mentioned here are three things that is shaking up Ahaz... 1. **Fierce anger** in verse 4....2. **Evil counsel** in verse 5 and...3. A possible **leadership change** in verse6...

1. Fierce Anger

Read verse 4

The two stubs, Ephraim (Israel, northern kingdom, ten tribes) and Aram (Syria) are but **smoldering stubs**...they're weak... they are spent... they are ready to be completely snuffed out.

But the “anger” ...literally smoke coming out of their nostrils!... Ephraim and Aram are displaying great anger toward Judea.... And this messes up Ahaz.... Puts fear in him... but Isaiah says they are but smoldering stubs...

2. Evil counsel

Read verses 5

The enemy circled up and talked about what they were going to do to Ahaz...an evil counsel must have leaked out their plans.... so Ahaz is scared.

3. Leadership change

Read verse 6

Let's attack Judah and replace Ahaz with Tabeel.... The last thing a weak king wants to hear is his impending forced retirement... Ahaz knees are shaking...

Read verses 7-9

Isaiah is predicting... prophesying what WILL take place... because of the wicked alliance Israel, the northern kingdom made with Syria (Aram)... the northern kingdom would certainly be destroyed... snuffed out.

Assyria... wretched Assyria would become the instrument God would use to destroy them... destroy the northern kingdom (in 65 years... that happened). and punish Judah, the southern kingdom... but He would NOT LET THEM DESTROY THEM.

Ephraim will be shattered... **it will no longer be a people**... Northern kingdom DONE!...

When that 65 years arrived... many were killed... many taken into brutal captivity... **they ceased to be a people**... The Assyrians conquered... and many of Ephraim were forced to marry Assyrians... this may be of interest... this people of mixed marriage became what we know as the Samaritans... [remember Jesus going through Samaria which a Jew would never do and meets up with "the woman at the well"?

The Samaritans embraced a religion that was a mixture of Judaism and idolatry (2 Kings 17:26-28). Because the Israelite inhabitants of Samaria had intermarried with the foreigners and adopted their idolatrous religion, Samaritans were universally despised by the Jews.

There are about 800 Samaritans still in existence today.

Southern kingdom... Judah (9) *You had better establish your faith in the Lord!* Isaiah to Ahaz...

TRUST IN THE LORD OR FALL INTO THE ENEMY'S HANDS...

Make not of that!... if you are on the verge to compromise... trust in the Lord... or the enemy will consume you!

Those are his two options... they are also our two options... these are timeless principles here!...

STAND FIRM IN YOUR FAITH OR YOU WILL NOT STAND AT ALL! now... Isaiah is really trying to get to Ahaz... he gives him a plan...

Read verses 10-11

This isn't like... God show me a sign so I can believe you exist... show me a sign so I can place my faith in you... [you've never done that have you?]. remember the story of Gideon... Gideon asked for a sign from God...

At first not because He doubted or disbelieved... but because he was wanting to be doubly certain he was walking in God's will.... And God came through with the sign... But Gideon's faith was weak so he asks for more signs... God is patient!... a lesson of Gideon's fleeces is that those asking for signs are usually exhibiting a weak and immature faith that won't be convinced by the signs anyway!

In the same way, even if God does provide a sign we ask for, it doesn't give us what we crave because our wavering faith still doubts.... That often leads us to ask for multiple signs, none of which give us the assurance we need, because the problem isn't with God's power; it's with our lack of faith....

Here... Isaiah intends this (a sign) to be actually an expression of belief.... Not doubt... *so Ahaz... ask God for a massive sign... make it as deep as Sheol or high as heaven.... A HUGE SIGN!... let's confirm we're walking together in this Lord... But Ahaz won't do it... won't ask God for the sign:*

Read verse 12

Ahaz is trying to sound pious and humble... trying to sound and look "righteous"... *I'm not going to ask God for a sign... I'm not going to test God!... BUT WAIT!... **didn't verse 10 say that it was the Lord that asked Ahab to ask the Lord for a sign?***

God told Ahaz to ask for one so that He could give one.... but the truth is... Ahab didn't want to know what God would say!... have you ever been in a difficult situation... you know what you should do but you don't want to do it...

It would be so much easier to do what you shouldn't do... ever been in a situation like that?... you don't pray to God asking what you should do because He might actually tell you!... so we do it our way.... **And our way when it is adverse to God's way tends to not end well!**.... that's what we have here with Ahaz...

Read verse 13

You won't listen to me... you won't listen to God either?....

So... since Ahab refused to choose a sign... **God chooses it for him**... and what a sign it is... it's not the sign that Isaiah was trying to get Ahaz to ask God for... it's much more magnificent... much more important... God's sign was even greater than **the depths of Sheol and the heights of heaven!**

Read verse 14

Before we see just how magnificent this verse is...it's not without some controversy... through the years many have argued that the Hebrew word translated as "virgin", "*alma*" did not mean a woman who hasn't had sexual relationships... that it was just a "young woman"...it is important for those who want to poke holes in scripture to make sure this woman...whoever she is... wasn't a virgin...

If you want to know the arguments and conclusions made through the last 2000 years make an appointment and we can spend a day or two going over them.... but here's where I think it all lands.

Prophecy in the Bible often has an "**immediate fulfilment**" and a "**future fulfillment**".... There is mixed ideas regarding the immediate fulfilment... but the future fulfillment is clear.

What is being said by Isaiah refers to something that is going to happen at the time he's saying it.... but it is also referring to a bigger something that will take place in the distant future.

Alma is best translated as "**young woman of sexual maturity**"... mentioned 7 times in the Old Testament... translated as a "maidens", "a young wife" "girl"... and a "virgin"... it can mean virgin but it can mean other things as well.

Outside of the Bible... in other Hebrew texts... *alma* is always used for a virgin...

A plausible explanation for the **immediate prophecy** is that the young woman was Isaiah's wife...she was young but not a virgin... she had *shear jashub*... the promise here is that Isaiah's young wife was going to have another baby... and this baby when it arrives... will be a sign that all that God has spoken to Ahaz through Isaiah WILL happen.

When this little baby comes... his name is "God with us"**... and we will remember that God has indeed been with us all this time**.... and everything He said happened exactly as He said it would....and it did!

But there is a future fulfillment that will be in the distant future.... Some 700 years to be exact... when a *Alma*...this time a **virgin will be with a child and she shall bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel**... how do we now this?

Because it happened!... the gospel of Matthew confirms it!...

Read Matthew 1:18-23

God with us!.....meditate on that!...

[Not a simple "God be with you"...]

The Gospel of John beautifully describes the Incarnation: "**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came**

from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . . No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known” (John 1:14–18).

In Jesus, God walked with us... and talked with us as He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Christ’s arrival showed all humanity that God is faithful to fulfill His promises.... Jesus was not just a sign of God with us, like the child born in the time of Ahaz. **Jesus was God with us in Person.**

Jesus is Immanuel.... He is not a partial revelation of God with us; Jesus is God with us in all His fullness: **“For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body” (Colossians 2:9, NLT). Jesus left the glories of heaven and took on the form of a servant so that He could identify with us in our day-to-day human struggles (Philippians 2:6–11; Hebrews 4:15–16).**

Immanuel is our Savior (1 Timothy 1:15). God sent His Son to live among us and die for us on the cross. Through Christ’s shed blood, we can be reconciled to God (Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 1:20). When we are born of His Spirit, Christ comes to live in us (2 Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 2:20).

Our Immanuel will be with us forever. After His resurrection from the dead, before Jesus returned to the Father, He made this promise: **“I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20, NLT; see also Hebrews 13:5). Nothing can ever separate us from God and His love for us in Christ (Romans 8:35–39).**

I want to close with an odd verse... but not really so odd...

Read verse 15

It’s a mysterious verse... surely it too has immediate and a future fulfillment in mind... the future one is sublime.

[Know how to refuse evil and choose good...has to do with dietary choices....]

Curds and honey was a food for the poor... it is no mistake that Jesus was born into poverty... all of the kings in the Davidic line did not eat food for the poor... the coming Messiah was in anticipation throughout the Old Testament... the Jews knew he would come through the line of David.

Every king who was on that line wondered if he was that messiah king... and if not the Messiah king... the father of the Messiah... none of them were... by the time Judah was taken into captivity some 8 kings had followed Ahaz.... All wondering if they were the Messiah king!

Zedekiah was the last of those... Judah went into captivity in Babylon for 70 years... just as the prophets foretold... we close the Old Testament out with the prophet Micah then God is silent for 400 years.... 600 years after Judah went into captivity... **the kings are all gone...dead... God speaks!...**

Jesus did not assume the throne from a rich king... as every other king did in the line of David... he wasn't given a palace... he was the heir of a fallen dynasty!... so...Messiah was born into poverty!.... he was born a baby wrapped in cheap cloths.... In a manger...

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing]

*(2) Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold He come; offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Vailed in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel.*