

Isaiah 7-8– 28 September 2023

“Invited To Join His Plan”

Introduction

*Chap 1, thru the prophet Isaiah, God began to point out Judah’s *religious hypocrisy*

*Chap 2-3, they’re reminded *there’s Kingdom coming & He longs for them to return to Him & be in it*

*Chap 4-6 God shows them the beauty of holiness, His desire for them to be blessed thru sanctification

*God’s inviting us all into His master plan; to redeem mankind into a loving union with our awesome God

*In chap 7, it’s 735 BC & Judah, w/ their King Ahaz, is facing the potential of war on many fronts

*Thru life’s thick & thin, can we rise above our scheming and planning and see that God has the perfect plan for our life? We can!

Today we’ll see 4 ways that God invites us into joining His master plan

#1: God is gracious & invites our belief (7:1-12)

Read Chap 7:1-2 – *Sign of the Virgin Birth*

1. Assyria is the world power & Syria & Israel were unsuccessful in getting Judah's help against Assyria so they decide to attack Judah
2. It's 735 BC & this makes Ahaz in Judah scared
3. They want to overthrow Ahaz & install a sympathetic king

Read Vs 3

1. Isaiah's son's name - "a remnant shall return"

Read Vs 4-7

1. We're told in II Chr 28 Ahaz "had forsaken the Lord God of his fathers" & were idolators
2. II Chr 28 tells us how Israel & Syria have been gaining victories throughout the villages in Judah, but this prophecy puts a limit & a stop to it
3. Although this wicked king Ahaz doesn't deserve God's grace, Israel & Syria will fail in attacking Jerusalem and he'll be fine

Read Vs 8-9

1. I love the way God talks; ‘these things WILL happen; do you want to believe & be blessed?’
2. W/i 65 yrs (660BC) is 1st Assyrian deportation in a swap, but the Assyrians in Samaria cry out for some Israelites to teach the about the ‘local god’
3. When the mixing begins, there’s no Israel left
 - a. Do worry, we see all 12 tribes coming back after the Babylonian Captivity
4. The call to Ahaz is to trust and believe God!!!

Read Vs 10-11

1. Ask for the sun to stand still or ask for the earth to open & swallow your enemies

Read Vs 12

1. This isn’t tempting God (ie Satan w/ Jesus), this is like God asking Solomon what he wanted
2. Ahaz’s pious response is b/c he knew he never intended to trust in God but in man

- a. Ahaz thought, ‘thank you for “praying” for me Isaiah, now I have to deal w/ my real problem’
- b. Ahaz will bribe Assyria to beat back Syria & Israel
- c. He even puts pagan gods in the temple

#2: God is present & invites our dependence (7:13-25)

Read Chap 7:13-14a

1. God was talking to Ahaz in vs 10, now He’s talking to the House of David in general
2. This prophecy to follow will have a near term fulfillment but also an ultimate fulfillment

Read Vs 14b-16

1. There’s a near-term & long-term fulfillment
 - a. Both kings of Syria (732) & Israel (722) will fall while the virgin born boy in Isaiah’s day is still young
 - b. Yet we know this prophecy is applied in the Gospel of Matthew 1:23 to Jesus Himself

2. This is a virgin, not just a woman
 - a. Hb is *alma* as in alma mater (virgin mother) & is always used in the OT as a chaste maiden
 - b. Gk Sept used the word *Parthenos* always translated as virgin in the NT
 - i. Written 300 yrs before Jesus without bias
3. Butter & honey is a reference to being poor as we know Jesus' family was by turtledoves offering

Read Vs 17

1. So the very nation (Assyria) that Ahaz turn to for help will ransack them as well
 - a. Turning to man's help may work in short run, but makes you slaves to them in long run

Read Vs 18-20

1. Egypt the fly (many) meets the Assyrian bee (known for cruelty) & Assyria wins humiliating all

Read Vs 21-25

2. Although Jerusalem isn't captured, the land in Judah is reduced to severe poverty by Assyrians

#3: God is sovereign & invites our obedience (8:1-10)

Read Chap 8:1-2 – *Sign of Maher-shal-hash-baz*

1. Meaning: ‘quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil’
2. So the prophecy from the Lord in vs 4 will be publicly attested to by two witnesses

Read Vs 3-4

1. The boy will be 2 or 3 when Assyria invades Syria and Israel around 732 BC
 - a. For Samaria this is known as the Galilee Captivity – full deportation coming in 722 BC

Read Vs 5-7

1. Both Israel and Syria have rejected the God of Jerusalem – certainly both were offered Him
 - a. Israel split away into idolatry
 - b. Syria was offered God in time of Naaman
2. So both are now subject to Assyria w/o God’s help....for they didn’t want it

Read Vs 8

1. Even Judah will be plundered by Assyria in 701 BC under Sennacherib w/ only Jerusalem left

Read Vs 9-10

1. Whatever Syria, Israel or Judah does now, it will not stand against God's judgement
2. It's Immanuel's land and it WILL be purified

#4: God is worth it & invites our fellowship (8:11-22)

Read Chap 8:11-13

1. Thru Isaiah the Lord instructed Israel & Judah what way to go
 - a. Don't depend on man but turn to God for help
 - b. Don't fear man, fear God
2. Vs 12b-13 is quoted by Peter in I Pet 3:14-15
 - a. If we suffer for righteousness' sake, we're blessed – THAT'S being like Isaiah
3. We should give only to the Lord that place of our dependence

Read Vs 14-15

1. The Lord WILL interfere in the affairs of man
 - a. He'll cause ungodly men's plans to stumble
 - b. He'll be a refuge to all those that come into Him in times that would otherwise overwhelm

2. What do we need to do to make Him our refuge
 - a. Believe that He will (Read I Pet 2:7-8 & Rom 9:33)

Read Vs 16-18

1. Isaiah and his children are for Israel's benefit
 - a. God put Isaiah intimately involved flesh to flesh with the nation
 - b. Just as Jesus would come & be intimately involved (Read Heb 2:13)
2. "I will wait upon the Lord" – not passive but active; as waiter at a restaurant waits on customer
 - a. As most 'waited' on Israel/Syria to invade
 - b. Isaiah 'waited' on the Lord to service

Read Vs 19-22

1. This is the terrible state of men in darkness that turn to even the occult & Satan rather than turning to God & His light in dark times
2. As the Anti-Christ comes on the world, we're told men will receive him b/c they've already refused Jesus (Read II Thes 2:9-12)

Conclusion

So in the midst of crisis all around them, God is offering true hope to Judah ...& by extension to us

1. **God is gracious & invites our belief**
 - a. Do we trust that God loves us enough to handle our problems?
2. **God is present & invites our dependence**
 - a. Do we lean on God with the realization that He is w/ us thru it & ready to guide us?
3. **God is sovereign & invites our obedience**
 - a. Do we obey what we know of God's truth leading us to the place of blessing?
4. **God is worth it & invites our fellowship**
 - a. Do we rejoice in having a friend like Jesus that is so rich in love and grace?

God is inviting you today to join Him on the path to eternal life!