

"Faith Under Fire"

Pastor Jason West | November 15, 2026

(Isaiah 6:8-13)

I. Fear Can _____ Your Heart

Isaiah 7:1 "In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it."

Isaiah 7:2 "When the house of David was told, 'Syria is in league with Ephraim,' the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind."

Psalm 56:3 "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

II. God Can _____ Your Soul

Isaiah 7:3 "And the Lord said to Isaiah, 'Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field."

A. He Will Meet You Where You Are _____

B. He Will Remind You of _____

Isaiah 7:3b "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son"

- *"Shear-jashub" meaning: "A remnant will return."*

Isaiah 6:13b "The holy seed is its stump."

C. He Will Give Grace to the _____ (2 Kings 16:2-4)

III. Trust His _____ Instead of Your Fears

Isaiah 7:4a "And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint"

A. Be _____ – Choose Faith Over Fear

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe."

I Timothy 4:16 "Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching."

B. Be _____ - Settle Your Heart

Isaiah 30:15a "For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.'"

C. Do Not _____ – Trust God's Word

Isaiah 7:4b "because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah."

D. Do Not _____ – Keep Holding On
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Hebrews 12:1-2)

Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

IV. God's _____ Can Silence Your Panic

Isaiah 7:5-6 "Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, 'Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it'"

Isaiah 7:7 "thus says the Lord God: "'It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.'"

Psalm 33:10-11 "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."

Isaiah 7:8 "For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people."

V. Trust the Lord and Hold Your _____

Isaiah 7:9 "And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

Mark 9:24b "I believe; help my unbelief!"

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BACKGROUND:

God tests us in many ways, often requiring us to choose between faith and fear. *Isaiah 7* describes a major political crisis facing King Ahaz of Judah who is confronted with a terrifying coalition. He is under threat from Rezin, King of Syria, and Pekah, King of Israel (the Northern Kingdom), who want to wage war against Jerusalem (verse 1). The heart of Ahaz and his people trembled with fear (verse 2). The question facing Ahaz is the same question facing us today: Will we trust what we see, or will we trust the God who rules over what we see? God sends Isaiah to speak into this moment of fear and uncertainty.

DIGGING DEEPER:

A key theme of Isaiah 7:1-9 is the choice between faith and fear. "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (Isaiah 7:9). God's faithfulness and sovereignty is the foundation upon which we stand.

1. How does God's faithfulness strengthen your faith? How consistently do you turn to God's faithfulness first when facing various uncertainties that come into your life?

2. What current situation tempts you to respond like Ahaz, with fear rather than faith?

3. Fear causes us to focus on ourselves and our circumstances. Faith causes us to focus on God. When your faith is tested, where is your attention drawn? What has been the result of that focus?

God's promises cannot be overturned by political ambition, military threats, or human plans. "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails" (Proverbs 19:21). God's plans always prevail over the plans of earthly rulers. Judah belongs to the Lord, and the house of David carries God's promise of the coming Messiah.

4. God's people may face real danger, but God remains sovereign over the outcome. How does God's sovereignty help calm your fears? Can you share an example?

5. Where do you find it most difficult to trust God's control over a situation?

6. How can remembering God's past faithfulness strengthen your confidence in Him today?

God refers to Rezin and Pekah as "two smoldering stumps of firebrands" (verse 4). A burning log is dangerous because it has flame, heat, and power. But a smoldering stump is what remains after most of the fuel has been consumed. It may smoke and appear threatening, but its power is nearly extinguished.

7. What "smoldering stumps of firebrands" in your life appear powerful and intimidating but are insignificant compared to God's power? What things from your past are still "smoldering" that you continue to treat as though they are a "burning fire"?

8. What practical steps can help you "keep calm and do not fear" in your present circumstances?

9. Read *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* and *Philippians 4:4-7*. What do these passages say to you about a believer's posture during difficult circumstances?

TAKING IT HOME:

God gives Ahaz four commands in verse 4: Be careful. Be quiet. Do not fear. Do not let your heart be faint. Being careful is practical. Being quiet is often more difficult. Refusing to fear may be the hardest challenge of all. For this reason, Scripture repeatedly reminds us not to be afraid and to be strong and courageous (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9).

10. What is one thing that keeps you from acting courageously?

11. What specific step can you take this week to replace fear with faith?

12. Which of the four commands do you find most challenging and why?