



# ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **"The Fruit of Faithlessness"**

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### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** **Isaiah 7:18-25**; *Isa 7:1-17*; *2 Ki 16:7-9*; *Is. 2:22*; *2:5*; *Prov. 8:36*; *Gen. 3:17-19*

Back in Isaiah 6, the prophet had his vision of God's holiness and answered the call: "*Hineni—Here am I. Send me!*" God warned him that people would hear but not really hear, see but not perceive. Still, Isaiah was to speak, because God's heart is always to invite first—"Plan A" is trust and obedience before judgment ever comes. He is patient, slow to anger, giving repeated opportunities for His people to respond.

In chapter 7, Isaiah's first mission was to King Ahaz of Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel and Aram had allied to overthrow him. Afraid, Ahaz was found inspecting the aqueducts, leaning on his strategies instead of the Lord. Through Isaiah, God told him: "*Keep calm, be quiet. Do not fear. If you do not trust, you will not stand*" (Isaiah 7:9). God even offered him a sign, any sign from heaven or Sheol, but Ahaz refused. Cloaking his unbelief in pious words, he turned instead to Assyria for help, sending them the treasures from the temple.

God warned that the very one Ahaz trusted—the king of Assyria—would turn against him. And now, in verses 18–25, Isaiah lays out what happens when you refuse God's way: the fruit of faithlessness.

#### **1. THE THINGS WE TRUST TURN AGAINST US (7:18-20)**

Isaiah says the Lord will whistle, and Egypt and Assyria will swarm like flies and bees. The very nations Judah looked to for help would become their oppressors. Like swarming insects filling ravines, thorn bushes, and watering holes—there would be no place to hide. What Ahaz thought was security became suffocation.

That's the fruit of faithlessness: the powers of this world that seem strong will eventually sting, swarm, and enslave. God says, "*Trust Me.*" But when we put our faith in armies, economies, governments or human strength, those things ultimately collapse and consume us. What looks like salvation becomes our downfall.

#### **2. THE FRUIT OF FAITHLESSNESS IS DISGRACE AND LOSS (7:20-21)**

God says He will shave Judah with the razor of Assyria—head, legs, even beard. In the ancient world, shaving symbolized humiliation and captivity. Nothing would be left untouched. Ahaz had "hired" Assyria with temple gold, but that very razor would strip them bare.

Faithlessness doesn't just leave us vulnerable—it brings disgrace. Ahaz traded the free salvation of the Lord for a purchased protection that turned into shame. When we refuse God's invitation to trust, we often end up exposed, humiliated, and empty. We thought we were buying security, but we were really buying chains.

#### **3. FRUITFULNESS IS TRADED FOR BRIARS AND THORNS (7:21-25)**

Isaiah paints a sobering picture: where once there were thousand-vine vineyards worth silver, now there will be briars and thorns. People will no longer farm; instead, a few survivors will live off curds and honey from a couple of animals. The fruitful land would become wasteland, dangerous and overrun.

It's Eden all over again. By distrusting God's word, humanity traded a garden of fruit for thorns and thistles. The fruit of faith is blessing; the fruit of faithlessness is barrenness. Ahaz's refusal to trust left Judah with wasted fields, ruined vineyards, and a reminder that what we sow in unbelief, we will reap in desolation.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ahaz had a choice: trust the Lord or trust Assyria. God said, "*Ask Me.*" Ahaz refused, and the fruit of his faithlessness was swarming enemies, public disgrace, and desolate land. And what about us? How often do we lean on our "aqueducts," our strategies, our "Assyrias," instead of God? He still says: "*Trust Me. Walk in My ways. Ask Me.*" If we refuse, we will reap thorns where He offered vineyards. But if we trust, we will stand firm and see His salvation.

Today, the Lord is inviting you to trust Him with what you've been clinging to. Maybe you've been looking to your own strategies, your own strength, or to the world's solutions for security. But those "Assyrias" will turn against you. The Lord says: "*Ask Me. Trust Me. Walk in My ways.*" Today, release your fears, your self-reliance, your worldly trusts. Choose the fruit of faith. Say yes to His invitation today, and He will turn briars into blessing and desolation into restoration.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What are some modern "Assyrias" we're tempted to trust instead of God?
2. Why does trusting in human power or wisdom eventually backfire?
3. How does Isaiah's imagery of flies, bees, and razors help us grasp the reality of misplaced trust?
4. In what ways have you personally experienced briars and thorns when you leaned on your own ways?
5. What would it look like for you to respond to God's invitation to "Ask Me" and trust Him today?

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

Abba, we confess that too often we run to our own strategies instead of to You. Forgive us for trusting in "Assyrias" that cannot save. We don't want the fruit of faithlessness—swarming fear, disgrace, and barrenness. We want the fruit of faith—life, blessing, and joy in Your presence. Teach us to trust Your word, to lean on Your reliability, and to walk in Your ways even when it doesn't make sense. Today we choose to say "Hineni—Here am I, Lord. Send me. I will trust You."

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.