



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"An Invitation to Trust"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Isaiah 7:1-17; Isaiah 6:1-13; Gen. 24:43; Ex. 28; Ps. 68:25; Prov. 30:18-19; Matt. 1:22-23

Isaiah had just been commissioned by the Lord in chapter 6. He saw the Lord high and lifted up, recognized his own sin, received cleansing, and said, "*Hineni—Here am I, send me!*" His first assignment would not be easy—he would declare God's word to a people who would hear but not understand, see but not perceive. Still, he was to be faithful.

Now in chapter 7, Isaiah is sent to King Ahaz in the middle of a national crisis. Armies are threatening, fear is spreading, and Ahaz is scrambling for his own solutions. It is in this moment that God sends a gracious word: "*Keep calm. Be quiet. Do not fear. Trust Me.*" This passage is a divine invitation—not just to Ahaz, but to us—to stop leaning on our own strategies, and to put our confidence in the reliability of God's word.

1. FEAR MAKES THREATS LOOK BIGGER THAN THEY REALLY ARE

Ahaz and the people were trembling like trees in the wind (Isaiah 7:2). Fear magnifies the problem. When the enemy is up close, the threat looks enormous—even if, from God's perspective, it's small. God calls Rezin and Pekah nothing more than "*two smoldering firebrands*" (Isaiah 7:4). Their fire was already burning out.

How often do we live as prisoners of the moment? The threat in front of us looks so big because it's right in our face. Bills, diagnoses, relationships, politics—whatever it is, fear makes it loom larger than life. But the Lord says, "*It will not stand, nor will it occur*" (Isaiah 7:7). The challenge for us is to shift our perspective. What looks overwhelming to us is already fading smoke to God. Fear feeds instability; trust steadies our hearts.

2. IF YOU DO NOT TRUST, YOU WILL NOT STAND

Isaiah 7:9 says, "*If you do not trust, you will not stand.*" The Hebrew wordplay connects *trust* and *stand* to the root *amen*. To "*amen*" God's word is to take it as reliable, firm, and true. If we refuse to trust His reliability, we ourselves will be unreliable and unsteady.

Ahaz ran to his aqueducts, his strategies, his military defenses. How often do we do the same—leaning on our own wisdom, economy, or political strength instead of the Lord? When God says, "*Don't fear,*" it's not irresponsible to rest—it's obedience. Our stability doesn't come from frantic effort but from trust in His word. The invitation is clear: Stand firm by trusting Him. If we don't, we will never be trustworthy ourselves.

3. GOD GRACIOUSLY GIVES A SIGN - IMMANUEL

God, seeing Ahaz's fear, offers him a sign—*any sign from the depths of Sheol to the heights of heaven* (Isaiah 7:11). But Ahaz cloaked his unbelief in pious words: "*I won't test the Lord.*" It sounded religious, but it was rebellion. He simply did not want to trust.

So God Himself chose the sign: *“Behold, the virgin will conceive. When she is giving birth to a son, she will call his name Immanuel”* (Isaiah 7:14). In the immediate context, this meant that before a child could grow up, the threatening kings would be gone. But in the larger context, it pointed to the ultimate hope—the Messiah, Yeshua, born of the virgin Miriam, God with us.

God multitasks: He ministers to the specific fears of the moment while unfolding His eternal purposes. He meets us in our crisis, but His answer always points us to Immanuel—God with us.

CONCLUSION

The Lord’s heart has not changed. He still says: *“Don’t fear. Don’t be fainthearted. Trust Me.”* Fear makes the threats look bigger than they are, but from His perspective they are fading smoke. If we don’t trust, we won’t stand. And to strengthen our faith, He’s given us the ultimate sign: Yeshua the Messiah, Immanuel—God with us. The question is: Will you trust Him? Will you stop running to your own aqueducts and strategies, and take Him at His word?

Today, the Lord invites you to lay down fear and put your trust in Him. Maybe you’ve been scrambling for solutions, checking the aqueducts, leaning on your own wisdom. The Lord says: *“Ask Me. Trust Me. I’ve already given you the sign—Immanuel.”* Come to Him. Surrender your strategies. Release your anxieties. Take hold of His reliability. If you do not trust, you will not stand—but if you put your trust in Him, you will be steady, unshakable, and secure.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What fears in your life feel overwhelming right now, like they are “right in your face”?
2. How does fear distort our perspective, and how does trusting God change it?
3. Why is it dangerous to hide unbelief behind religious-sounding words?
4. What does it mean for you personally that *Immanuel—God with us*—is the sign God has given?
5. Where in your life are you tempted to trust your “aqueducts” instead of God’s promises?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Abba, we thank You for Your gracious invitation to trust You. Forgive us for running to our own strength, our own strategies, and for allowing fear to rule our hearts. Thank You for giving us the sign of Immanuel, Yeshua our Messiah, who is always with us. Strengthen our faith today. Teach us to stand firm by trusting Your word. We choose to release our fears and hold fast to You.

In the name of Yeshua our Messiah, Amen.