

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

2023 Christmas / Jesus' Birth / Isaiah 7:10–16; Philippians 2:5–11

Notes

12/17 Isa. 7:10-16, "The Christ Was Immanuel," Subtitle: As God promised, so He was, Scripture: Phil. 2:5-11

Aside from the historical fact that Jesus was born, why is it important to know what God promised about who Jesus would be? Even more important is the difference it has, if any, in giving us answers to the struggles of this life. It would seem that the value of Christ's birth is so much more than just a reason for the world to celebrate, more than just a reason for admiration of His life and even His death on the cross and resurrection. In fact, the details of Christ's birth and who He was when He was born gives us the very foundation from which our faith in Christ can spring.

So, who was Christ and why does it matter? When it comes to faith in God and in His Son, Jesus Christ, can we trust God to do all that He promises, especially when the adversity of life itself challenges even the most foundational understanding of a God who is sovereign?

Storms, disease, poverty, death, and crimes against humanity. In the midst of such atrocity and adversity, can God be trusted to be true to His word despite our circumstances?

Take care and be calm, have no fear

and do not be fainthearted because of...Thus says the LORD, it shall not stand (Isa. 7:4, 7)

(2 Kings 16:2) King Ahaz did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord.

King Ahaz of Judah had a choice to make, in the wake of impending destruction of his kingdom. God gave Ahaz the opportunity to learn that He could trust God to keep His promises.

God wants us to look for Him (Isa. 7:10-11)

| Isaiah 1–39 ((1) Ahaz’s Failure to Trust God Brings Assyria (7:1–25))

God offered to provide Ahaz a sign in nature to prove to the king that he was powerful enough to handle Ahaz’s enemies. Although some signs are miraculous (the turning back of the sundial in Isa 38:7–8 or Gideon’s fleece in Judg 6:36–40), a sign is merely a symbolic representation of something else and does not have to be miraculous. Circumcision was a memorial sign of the covenant (Gen 17) and a group of twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan in Joshua’s day were a memorial sign to remind future generations of God’s great deeds on the day the people crossed the Jordan (Josh 4:1–7). A prophetic sign concerning the future was given to Moses when God met him in the burning bush (Exod 3:12). This sign with Ahaz functioned to assure Moses that God would fulfill his promise to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and meet them again at Mt Sinai. The nature of God’s offer to move heaven and earth for Ahaz suggests a miraculous event (maybe even the rising of the dead from Sheol), but if Ahaz had asked for God to have a rainbow appear, this would probably not be considered very miraculous. This sign was to offer

assurance and confirmation to Ahaz that God is real, powerful, and will act on his behalf

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Ahaz unfortunately did not respond in faith.

We stubbornly look to ourselves (Isa. 7:12-13)

Isaiah 1–39 (1) Ahaz’s Failure to Trust God Brings Assyria (7:1–25)

Ahaz’s rejection of God and what God might have to tell him is an indication of little faith in God. He is not really interested in trusting God, for he probably has already developed his own plan to put his trust in Assyria to deliver him from Syria and Israel.

The New American Commentary

God’s Compassion is greater than anything we fear (Isa. 7:14-16)

Mankind and adversity is not what is to be feared, but rather the God who is sovereign over them all.

Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because

of...Thus says the LORD, it shall not stand (Isa. 7:4, 7)