

A STUDY OF ISAIAH

The Sign Ahaz Refused

Lesson 6 · Isaiah 7

Name _____ Date _____

| *If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all.*
Isaiah 7:9

WHERE WE'RE GOING TODAY

1. Two smoldering sticks · 7:1–9
2. The sign he would not ask for · 7:10–13
3. A virgin and a son · 7:14–17
4. The razor he hired · 7:18–25
5. Looking to Christ · Matt 1:18–25; 28:20

WHERE WE ARE

About _____ BC. Ahaz, _____'s grandson, has been king of Judah for a year or two. Tiglath-pileser III of _____ is pushing west toward the Mediterranean. Rezin of _____, the kingdom we call _____, and Pekah of _____ have joined forces against him and want Judah in their alliance. Ahaz has refused, so they are marching on _____ to put their own man on his throne.

The question this passage answers: when what you can see is terrifying, will you _____?

1 TWO SMOLDERING STICKS (7:1–9)

Isaiah gives you the _____ first, 7:1. They couldn't take the city. Then he backs up to the day the news came.

| *When it became known to the house of David that Aram had occupied Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembled like trees of a forest shaking in the wind.*

Isaiah 7:2

Ephraim is Isaiah's usual name for the _____ kingdom of Israel, after its largest _____. The fear made sense. Chronicles says Pekah killed _____ men of Judah in a single day, one of the king's _____ among the dead, 2 Chronicles 28:6–7.

God sends Isaiah to meet Ahaz *at the end of the _____ of the upper pool*, 7:3. Jerusalem's _____ came in from outside the walls, and Ahaz is out inspecting it before a siege.

Isaiah takes his son along on purpose. *Shear-jashub* means "_____." The name cuts both ways: only a remnant, or a remnant _____.

GOD'S MESSAGE TO AHAZ (7:4)

What Ahaz should do	What Ahaz should not be
Calm _____	Afraid
Be _____	_____

Ahaz sees two blazing _____. God sees two burnt-out stubs of _____, still smoking. Their plan is to put *Tabeel's son* on David's throne, 7:6. Nobody knows who he was.

FOLLOW EACH THREAT TO THE TOP (7:8–9)

Nation	Chief city	Chief
Aram	_____	_____
Ephraim	_____	the son of _____
Judah (finish it yourself)	_____	the king on the throne God promised _____

Follow each threat to the top, and you find one _____. Isaiah won't even say Pekah's name. Within _____ years, the northern kingdom would cease to be a people at all.

| *If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all.*

Isaiah 7:9

The CSB catches the wordplay. Isaiah uses one Hebrew verb twice, from the root that gives us the word _____. Be _____ in God, or you won't be made _____ at all. And the *you* is _____; Isaiah is speaking to the whole royal _____.

So far God has asked Ahaz for nothing except to keep _____ and _____ Him. With an army on the way, Ahaz would rather do something.

2 THE SIGN HE WOULD NOT ASK FOR (7:10–13)

| *Ask for a sign from the Lord your God—it can be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.*

Isaiah 7:11

Sheol is the realm of the _____, the deepest place an Israelite could name. Heaven was the highest. God offers to prove His own _____, and He makes the offer to the same king who sacrificed his _____ in the fire.

| But Ahaz replied, "I will not ask. I will not test the Lord."
Isaiah 7:12

It sounds devout. It's even a Bible verse, Deuteronomy _____. At _____, Israel demanded proof that God was with them after He had already split the _____. Testing God means refusing to trust Him until He performs on _____ terms. Here God had set the terms _____, and Ahaz turned them down by quoting a verse.

WHAT AHAZ DID INSTEAD (2 KINGS 16:7-8)

- He sent messengers to King _____ of Assyria.
- He called himself the Assyrian's "_____ and your _____."
- He paid with the silver and gold found in the Lord's _____.

God had called David His _____ and promised that David's heir would be His _____, 2 Samuel 7:5, 14. Ahaz gives both titles away to the king of _____.
Once you've made up your mind, you don't want a _____. A sign might _____ you.
Isaiah's answer has an edge, 7:13. Two verses earlier, it was *the Lord* _____ *God*. Now it's _____ *God*. Isaiah has also turned from Ahaz to the house of _____, the whole royal line.

3 A VIRGIN AND A SON (7:14-17)

| Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14

Ahaz wouldn't choose a sign, so God chooses one, and the *you* is _____ again. *Immanuel* means "_____", exactly what Ahaz had refused to believe.
The sign came with a _____. *Before the boy knows to reject what is bad and choose what is good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned*, 7:16. A child learns right from wrong _____.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWO KINGS

King	What happened	Read it in
Rezin of Aram	Tiglath-pileser took _____ in 732 BC and put Rezin to _____	2 Kings 16:9
Pekah of Israel	_____ led a conspiracy, killed him, and took his throne	2 Kings 15:30

Within two or three years of Isaiah's words, both kings Ahaz dreaded were _____. That's what the sign meant to the people standing at the conduit.

The sign doesn't stay comfortable. *Curds and honey* sound like rich food until 7:____ shows it's what survivors eat when the fields are gone. Then 7:17: *He will bring the king of _____*. The worst day in Judah's memory was the day the kingdom _____, 1 Kings 12. Ahaz had sent for the king of Assyria. He would _____ him.

WHO WAS THE CHILD?

Commentators divide here, and honest readers can too.

- Some see a boy born in Ahaz's own day, _____'s son or the _____'s.
- Others hold that Isaiah saw one child only, the _____.

Isaiah's own book narrows the question:

- 8:8 calls Judah *your entire land*, _____! The land belongs to him.
- 9:6 gives the child born to sit on David's throne the name _____.

The longer Isaiah talks about this child, the less he sounds like anyone born in 734 BC. The Hebrew word for *virgin*, _____, means a young woman of marriageable age, and wherever the Old Testament lets us check, she is _____.

4 THE RAZOR HE HIRED (7:18–25)

The rest of the chapter is four short oracles, each beginning *On that _____*. They show Ahaz what he _____.

On that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria—to shave the hair on your heads, the hair on your legs, and even your beards.

Isaiah 7:20

Ahaz thinks he's bought _____. Shaving captives was how a conqueror _____ them, and Ahaz paid for the razor with the temple's _____. But notice who holds it. *The _____ will use it.*

Chronicles tells how the bargain turned out: Tiglath-pileser *came against Ahaz; he _____ him and did not give him _____*, 2 Chronicles 28:20. From that day on, David's sons sat on the throne at the pleasure of _____, and later of _____.

Where a thousand vines once grew, there will be _____ and _____, 7:23, the same ones God promised His fruitless _____ in 5:6.

In 701 BC, _____ years after this conversation, an Assyrian officer with a massive army *stood near the conduit of the upper pool*, 36:2. It's the spot where Isaiah met _____.

5 LOOKING TO CHRIST

Seven centuries later, an angel came to a carpenter in Nazareth in a dream, called him *Joseph, son of _____*, and told him, *don't be _____*, Matthew 1:20.

See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."

Matthew 1:23

TWO SONS OF DAVID TOLD NOT TO BE AFRAID

	Ahaz	Joseph
Where he heard it	At the _____	In a _____
What he did	Went looking for _____	<i>Did as the Lord's _____ had commanded him, 1:24</i>

In Jesus, God was with His people in a way Isaiah could only point toward. Matthew's Gospel opens with that name and closes on the same promise: *I am with you _____, to the end of the age, 28:20.*

6 APPLYING THE TEXT

Put a check by the one you most need to work on this week.

- ☐ **Follow your fear to the top.** Isaiah traced the armies that terrified Ahaz back to a single man. A doctor's report or a company's balance sheet has a top too. None of them sits on the throne. Write the fear down and see where it stops.
- ☐ **Keep still when God tells you to.** Inspecting the water was Ahaz's job. Buying a rescuer God had told him he didn't need was unbelief. Some of your busiest weeks are the same thing.
- ☐ **Be suspicious of your most spiritual-sounding excuses.** "I'm waiting on the Lord" can mean you've already decided. When your reason sounds devout, ask whether it's a reason or a cover.
- ☐ **Live like God is with you.** You have the name Matthew gave the Son of Mary and the promise Jesus made in Galilee. What would you do differently this week if you believed He meant it?

7 FOR DISCUSSION

1. List what Isaiah tells Ahaz to do and not to do in 7:4. Then read 2 Kings 16:7–8. Which of Isaiah's instructions did Ahaz follow?

2. Compare *the Lord your God* in 7:11 with *my God* in 7:13. What changed between those two verses, and why does Isaiah turn to address the whole *house of David*?

3. Ahaz quoted Deuteronomy 6:16 to refuse God's offer. How can a true Bible verse become cover for unbelief? When have you used one that way?

4. Read 2 Chronicles 28:20–23. Did Ahaz's plan work? In what sense did it succeed, and in what sense did it fail?

5. What fear in your life right now would you rather manage yourself than bring to God? What would *calm down and be quiet* look like there?

6. Is there a decision you've already made that you're now asking God to bless rather than direct? If He offered you a sign about it, would you want to see it?

NEXT WEEK

Lesson 7 · The People Walking in Darkness · Isaiah 8:1–9:7

Isaiah posts his second son's name in public before the boy is conceived, and the Assyrian flood Ahaz invited rises to Judah's neck. The people go looking for answers among the dead, and the land goes dark. Then a light breaks over Galilee, and a child is born to sit on David's throne.

Your assignment: read Isaiah 8:1–9:7 and Matthew 4:12–17. Mark every place in chapter 8 where the name *Immanuel* or the words *God is with us* appear.

NOTES
