

“Immanuel”

Isaiah 7:1-17; 2 Chronicles 28:1-16

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction

- The “*Most wonderful time of the year*” can be the “*most sorrowful time*”-- People in crisis
- Background of crisis-- Ahaz, king of Judah
 - Isaiah 7:1-- “*Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it.*”
- a. God’s Principles-- Deuteronomy 28
 - Deuteronomy 28:1-- “*LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.*”
 - Deuteronomy 28:7-- “*The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.*”
 - Deuteronomy 28:7-- “*The LORD will make you the head, and not the tail. You shall be above only, and not beneath.*”
 - Deuteronomy 28:25-- “*The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them.*”
 - Deuteronomy 28:63-- “*just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.*”
- b. Ahaz’ Problem: Consummate Idolater-- 2 Chronicles 28:1-5
 - 2 Chronicles 28:1-5-- “*Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in the sight of the LORD, as his father David had done. For he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and made molded images for the Baals. He burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree. Therefore, the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria. They defeated him, and carried away a great multitude of them as captives, and brought them to Damascus.*”
 - 2 Chronicles 27:6-- “*So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God.*”
 - 2 Chronicles 28:19-- “*...had encouraged moral decline in Judah and had been continually unfaithful to the LORD.*”
- c. God’s Promise—Deuteronomy 31:8
 - Deuteronomy 31:8-- “*the LORD, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.*”
 - Deuteronomy 31:17-- “*they will say in that day, ‘Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?’*”
- d. Ahaz’ Problem: Loss of the experiential sense of God’s presence leads to hopelessness.

God’s Solution to Hopelessness: *IMMANUEL*

A. “*God with us*” through **PROVIDENTIAL MEANS**—2 Chronicles 28:9-16

- 2 Chronicles 28:9-16-- “*But a prophet of the LORD was there, whose name was Oded; and he went out before the army that came to Samaria, and said to them; ‘Look, because the LORD God of your fathers was angry with Judah, He has delivered them into your hand; but you have killed them in a rage that reaches up to heaven. And now you propose to force the children of Judah and Jerusalem to be your male and female slaves; but are you not also guilty before the LORD your God? Now hear me, therefore, and return the captives, whom you have taken from your brethren, for the fierce wrath of the LORD is upon you.’*”

Then some of the heads of the children of Ephraim, Azariah the son of Johanan, Berechiah the son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah the son of Shallum, and Amasa the son of Hadlai, stood up against those who came from the war, and said to them, ‘You shall not bring the captives here, for we already have offended the LORD. You intend to add to our sins and to our guilt; for our guilt is great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.’ So the armed men left the captives and the spoil before the leaders and all the assembly. Then the men who were designated by name rose up and took the captives, and from the spoil they clothed all who were naked among them, dressed

them and gave them sandals, gave them food and drink, and anointed them; and they let all the feeble ones ride on donkeys. So they brought them to their brethren at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria."

1. God intervenes and miraculously delivers the captives
2. Ahaz failed to see God at work in his circumstances. Instead he gives credit to other gods for their deliverance—2 Chronicles 8:22
 - 2 Chronicles 8:22--*"Now in the time of his distress King Ahaz became increasingly unfaithful to the LORD. For he sacrificed to the gods of Damascus which had defeated him, saying, 'Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, I will sacrifice to them that they may help me.'"*

B. **"God with us" through a PROPHETIC MESSAGE—Isaiah 7:1-9**

- Isaiah 7:1-9-- *"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it. And it was told the house of David, saying 'Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim.' So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind. Then the LORD said to Isaiah, 'Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field, and say to him: "Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah. Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, 'Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabel.'—thus says the LORD GOD: 'It shall not stand, nor come to pass. For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, so that it will not be a people. The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established.'"*
1. God sends Isaiah to comfort Ahaz with a message from God: *"It's not going to happen."* Within three years Ahaz' enemies will be destroyed. Therefore TRUST GOD.
 - Isaiah 7:16-17-- *"For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. The LORD will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father's house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah."*
 2. God fulfills His Word to the very day
 - a. Within three years, Rezin and Pekah are both killed.
 - b. In 65 years, the nation of Israel were shattered.
 3. We have a "more sure word of prophecy"
 - 2 Peter 1:19-- *"We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."*

C. **"God with us" through the PROMISED MESSIAH—Isaiah 7:10-14**

1. Ahaz refused to ask for a sign from God, showing his unbelief.
 - Isaiah 7:10-12-- *"Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!' Then he said, 'Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore, the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.'"*
2. God gives the sign of the Promised Messiah
 - Isaiah 7:14--*"Therefore, the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*
3. The Promise fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ
 - Matthew 1:20-21-- *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*
 - Matthew 1:22-23-- *"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, 'Behold the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name, Immanuel', which is translated, 'God with us.'"*
 - John 1:14-- *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*
 - Isaiah 7:9-- *"If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established."*