

**I. God Intervenes - Is. 7:7-9**

1. It will not take place (**verse 7**)
  - they are afraid of invasion from the north
  - you have nothing to worry about... now they have to believe God
2. Specific enemies of Judah are named (**verses 8-9**)
  - A. Damascus is the capital of Aram - Rezin is the king
  - B. To speak of Ephraim is to speak for the northern kingdom as a whole
    - Samaria is the capital there
3. Within 65 years all this will be different - Ephraim will be too shattered  
In 722 BC the Assyrian army destroyed Samaria
4. The answer? - stand firm in your faith
  - God will deliver

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. These are political/ military events - does God work in OUR political events?
  - how so?
2. The solution was faith in God,- is our solution faith in God? - how?
3. The word “sovereign” is used in verse 7 - is God sovereign over our world?
  - then why do we pray “thy kingdom come?”

**II. God Expects - Is. 7:10-13**

1. A direct instruction to Ahaz (the king) (**verse 10**)
2. God tells king Ahaz to ask for a sign (**verse 11**)
  - the “sky is the limit” - “deepest depths on in the highest heights”
3. Ahaz responds “I will not put God to the test” (verse 12)
  - A. This is a cover for Ahaz having already decided what he would do
  - B. “I need to pray about that” - a cover for our knowing what we are going to do
4. Isaiah knew it was an excuse (**Verse 13**)
  - you are trying the patience of God

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Asking for a sign sounds so very spiritual
2. My experience in asking for a sign - is that you must be firm in following that sign if you ask for it - and... God knows if you will follow the sign, even before He gives it
3. We “use” spiritual things to buttress our own will and desires
  - political parties can be “used”
  - presidents can be “used”

**III. God Announces - Is. 7:14-15**

1. God will give a sign - even though it was not asked for (verse 14)
  - A. A virgin will conceive
  - B. His name will be “Immanuel”
2. “Virgin” is “almah”
  - A. Can mean “virgin”
  - B. Can refer to a newly married woman

- C. Can refer to any young woman
3. What does this word mean in this Isaiah context?
- A. Refers to Jesus in the New Testament - born to Mary (a virgin)
    - this might mean the response to Ahaz was not particularly applicable
    - the Jesus era is still far in advance
  - B. Another interpretation - Isaiah's own son
    - since Isaiah already had a son his wife is not a virgin
  - C. Possibly another woman - Isaiah's wife not then known
- Rea 4. Jesus' "virgin" mother (Mary) is the ultimate fulfillment of this "sign" to Ahaz
- So, it was a sign to Ahaz
- It is a sign to New Testament believers - also
- God provides for His people both in the Old Testament and the New Testament
- So... we might say - it happened in the Old Testament and it happened again in
- Jesus
5. He will be eating curds and honey - when he is able to reject the wrong and follow the right
- old enough to make moral choices
- Rea -therefore, it will be a while before this "Immanuel" (the "sign" child) matures and before God does something in the life of Ahaz
- Rea -the child is the issue in both Old Testament and New Testament - God is giving a "savior"
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Was Mary a virgin? Absolutely - read it in the New Testament
  2. Sometimes a sign is given figuratively and sometimes literally
    - also, sometimes a sign if so far out in the future it seems to have no relevance for the present (that's the case here)
  3. It was an un-asked-for sign
  4. Important things to remember about this sign:
    - God is involved... involved enough to give a sign even when not asked for
    - an unusual birth - to a virgin
    - name is important - "God will us"
    - "conceiving" is the sign - also

#### IV. God Judges - Is. 7:16-17

1. Those nations you are not worried about will be gone before this child is old enough to know right from wrong (**verse 16**)
- Rea -a specific time frame but not a specific age, or date - much like our rapture. We know it will happen, and we know what to look for but we don't know when it will happen
2. A comforting promise
- Rea A. Promises are future
- Rea B. We are very prone to worry about the unknown future
- Rea C. The idea? - before too long these nations will not be a worry
3. God is going to bring a great time on you and your people (**verse 17**)
    - the people of Ahaz
  4. Ahaz did not listen to this promise of comfort - he appealed to Assyria for help

Rea -Ahaz got the help of Assyria but had to pay tribute to obtain it  
Rea -irony - you want Assyria - I'll give you Assyria  
Rea -sometimes God allows us to have what we want instead of something good

**Ideas and Questions:**

1. So what would Ahaz have had to do to listen to and follow God?
2. His decision had fruit that fell on his family and on his nation
3. Reaching out more to Assyria than to God
  - we ought reach out more to God than to any political party or president
  - our faith ought always be in Him, and not them
4. God does work in and within our politics - so to ignore Him is wrong
  - however, Assyria was their "Savior"

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