

The Lord Will Give You A Sign

Introduction

- The one nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms as a result of sin – Northern (Israel) & Southern (Judah).
- Isaiah represented God as a prophet to Judah during the reign of Ahaz the king in the timeframe of our text.
- King Ahaz lived a wicked & idolatrous lifestyle – worshiped false gods, child sacrifice, etc. (2Ki. 16:1-20; 2Chr. 28:1-27).
- God still faithfully promises to protect & deliver Judah from an evil plan of the enemy – Syria & Israel (Is. 7:1-9a).

I. A Call to Faith (Is. 7:9b-12)

A. God gives clear alternatives (v. 9b)

*King Ahaz is faced with two options – trust God or his own understanding & plans. All people are faced with these two choices daily: trust God or human wisdom; supernatural or natural; limitless or limited; holy or unholy. A leader's faith affects people under his authority – stand firm in faith or not at all: "trust or bust"; "unsure means insecure"; "unbelief means unstable". **These two options in life always lead to these two certain outcomes.***

B. God gives clear opportunity (v. 10-12)

*God is merciful & patient with the worst of sinners (v. 10-11; 1Tim. 1:16) – a sign to help his unbelief. God is willing to give sinners whatever they need to believe & trust Him – no one has an excuse. Even though God gives gracious opportunities to repent, some sinners have hardened their hearts beyond repentance (2Ki. 16:2-4; Heb. 6:4-6; Rev. 2:21). Deceptive sinners can say the right things in unbelief (v. 12; Mt. 7:21; 15:8). **Even though God commands & gives opportunity for everyone to repent, many will not do it.***

II. A Sign for Faith (Is. 7:13-17)

A. God remembers His promise (v. 13)

*Even when people are unfaithful, God is always faithful to His word (Rom. 3:3-4). God had promised to care for & provide a true king for His people (2Sam. 7:9, 16). God is merciful & patient, but his patience has a limit – "you weary my God also". **King Ahaz has failed, but God will still keep his promise in the true King to come!***

B. God further reveals His promise (v. 14-17)

God gives hope in the midst of failure & disappointment! The true King will come (v. 14-15) even though this king has failed (v. 16-17). Details of the promised King: miraculous conception (virgin), Immanuel (God with us), will grow up in poverty & will be godly (v. 14-15). The true King of the future would be different from all of the previous kings who had failed in some way. He would be tested & tempted like other kings, but He will remain faithful & righteous; His character is divine; He is in fact God with us!

ILL: God created people with a natural tendency to follow human examples – good & bad; godly & ungodly. People who model what we believe to be right & good for us give us hope & encouragement for the future. People who model what we believe to be right & good motivate us to do the same. And when they do not provide good examples, they disappoint & discourage us.

APPL: The same principles are true of believers in the kingdom of God. After we have been converted (born again), we are exhorted to follow the example of godly leaders (1Co. 11:1). Any person that a believer follows should always be follower of Christ themselves!