

PREPARE HIM ROOM

• CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS •

Immanuel

God uses the crisis of life to expose our faith: If we don't stand firm in our faith in Jesus Christ, the virgin-born Savior of the world, we will not stand at all.

Immanuel

1. A Crisis that Reveals a Lack of Faith (1-2)

Isaiah 7:1

In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.

Isaiah 7:6

“Let us go up against Judah and terrify it,
and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set
up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst
of it,”

Isaiah 7:2

When the house of David was told, “Syria is in league with Ephraim,” the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

Immanuel

1. A Crisis that Reveals a Lack of Faith (1-2)
2. A Promise Given to Strengthen Faith (3-9a)

Isaiah 7:3

And the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.

Isaiah 7:4-6

And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.

Isaiah 7:4-6

⁵ Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶ “Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,”

Isaiah 7:7-9a

thus says the Lord God: “It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. ⁸ For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

Isaiah 7:7-9a

⁹ And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of
Remaliah.

“Christianity is neither an opiate that dulls Christians to the real pain of this life nor is it a flight into unreality that denies the existence of suffering and evil. Rather, it is a faith in the trustworthy character and promises of God.

It's a belief backed up by experience that we as Christians can endure the loss of all things that are precious to us so long as we have God who is more precious than life itself.

It's the certainty that if God did not spare his own Son, Jesus Christ, but gave him up for us on the cross will he not also, together with Jesus Christ, give us all things?

It's the conviction that nothing, I mean nothing, nothing can separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. And that separation is the only thing worth fearing."

-Michael Lawrence

Immanuel

1. A Crisis that Reveals a Lack of Faith (1-2)
2. A Promise Given to Strengthen Faith (3-9a)
3. A Warning Against Misplaced Faith (9b)

Isaiah 7:9b

If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.

2 Kings 16:2-4

Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done,

2 Kings 16:2-4

³ but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

2 Kings 16:2-4

⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.

Faith

1. Knowledge of God persuading us to
2. Agree with God which, in turn, compels us to
3. Embrace God.

Immanuel

1. A Crisis that Reveals a Lack of Faith (1-2)
2. A Promise Given to Strengthen Faith (3-9a)
3. A Warning Against Misplaced Faith (9b)
4. A Child Who Is the Object of Faith (10-16)

Isaiah 7:10-11

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

Isaiah 7:12

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Deuteronomy 6:16

You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.

Isaiah 7:13

And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?”

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.

Isaiah 7:15-16

He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 8:3-4

And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, "Call his name Maher-shalal-hash-baz;

Isaiah 8:3-4

⁴ for before the boy knows how to cry 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the king of Assyria."

Matthew 1:21-23

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

Matthew 1:21-23

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).