

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 7 — The Prophecy of Immanuel

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 7 takes place during a time of national fear.

Judah is threatened by two kings:

Rezin, king of Aram.

Pekah, king of Israel.

Together they plan to attack Jerusalem, overthrow Ahaz, and replace him with another ruler.

The news terrifies:

Ahaz.

The house of David.

The people of Judah.

Isaiah describes their fear vividly:

“The heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembled like trees shaking in the wind.”

Fear had taken control.

Yet God sends Isaiah with a message:

“Be careful, stay calm, and do not be afraid.”

The enemies threatening Judah seem powerful.

God describes them as:

“two smoldering stumps of firewood.”

What looked dangerous from the human perspective was already dying from God’s perspective.

Then comes one of the most important statements in the chapter:

“If you do not stand firm in faith, you will not stand at all.”

Ahaz must decide:

Will he trust God?

Or:

Will he trust political alliances?

God graciously offers Ahaz a sign.

Ahaz refuses.

His words sound spiritual:

“I will not test the Lord.”

But his refusal is not true faith.

He has already chosen another path.

Instead of trusting God, Ahaz turns toward Assyria.

Therefore God gives a sign Himself:

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

The name means:

God with us.

This prophecy has an immediate historical setting connected with the crisis facing Judah, while Matthew 1:23 identifies its climactic fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

The chapter then takes a darker turn.

The very Assyria Ahaz looks to for help will become an instrument of judgment.

What Ahaz trusts instead of God will eventually become a source of trouble.

The central truth of Isaiah 7 is:

Faith stands firm by trusting God’s Word rather than fearing human threats or depending on worldly alliances, and the ultimate sign of God’s faithfulness is Immanuel—God with us—while unbelief brings consequences through the very powers people trust instead of Him.

I. JUDAH IS THREATENED BY TWO KINGS

Isaiah 7:1 — Jerusalem Under Pressure

“During the days of Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin king of Aram (Syria) and Pekah son of Remaliah, king of Israel, marched up to Jerusalem to fight against it, but they could not overpower it.”

Judah faces a military crisis.

Two kingdoms combine against Jerusalem:

Aram.

Israel.

Their goal is conquest.

Yet they are unable to overthrow Jerusalem at that time.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:5

Rezin king of Aram and Pekah king of Israel came against Jerusalem and surrounded Ahaz, but they were unable to conquer the city.

2 Chronicles 28:5

Because of Ahaz's unfaithfulness, God allowed him to suffer defeat before the kings of Aram and Israel, and many people from Judah were taken captive.

2 Kings 15:37

During the days of Jotham, the Lord began allowing Rezin king of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah to move against Judah.

Spiritual Principle

A crisis may be real without being ultimate.

Key Truth

Human threats never become larger than God's sovereignty.

II. FEAR SHAKES THE HOUSE OF DAVID

Isaiah 7:2 — Hearts Tremble Like Trees

“When the house of David was told, ‘Aram has joined forces with Ephraim,’ the heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembled like trees shaking in the wind.”

The report produces panic.

Fear spreads from:

The king.

To:

The people.

The image is vivid.

Trees shake when wind moves through them.

So:

Ahaz shakes.

Judah shakes.

Fear has taken hold before the battle is decided.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:5

The kings of Aram and Israel joined together against Jerusalem, creating the same crisis Isaiah describes.

Judges 9:15

In Jotham's parable, the thornbush tells the trees to come under its shadow if they truly intend to make it king, illustrating the danger of misplaced confidence.

Psalms 46:2

God's people are told not to fear even if the earth gives way and the mountains are moved into the sea.

Spiritual Principle

Fear often reacts to what might happen rather than what God has said will happen.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not let the report of men become louder than the promise of God.

III. GOD SENDS ISAIAH TO MEET AHAZ

Isaiah 7:3 — Isaiah and Shear-jashub

“Then the Lord said to Isaiah, ‘Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the aqueduct of the upper pool, on the road to the Washer’s Field.’”

God sends Isaiah personally.

Isaiah brings his son:

Shear-jashub.

The name carries prophetic significance:

A remnant will return.

Even Isaiah's family becomes part of the prophetic message.

God meets Ahaz in the middle of the crisis.

Cross References

2 Kings 18:17

Later, Assyrian officials would stand near the same upper pool and aqueduct area when threatening Jerusalem during Hezekiah's reign.

Isaiah 10:21

Isaiah later declares that a remnant will return to the mighty God.

Isaiah 36:2

The Assyrian field commander later stood near the aqueduct of the upper pool on the road to the Washer's Field.

Spiritual Principle

God often brings His Word to us precisely where fear is strongest.

IV. GOD TELLS AHAZ NOT TO FEAR

Isaiah 7:4 — Two Smoldering Stumps

“Tell him, ‘Be careful, stay calm, and do not be afraid. Do not lose heart because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. They are nothing but two smoldering stumps of firewood.’”

God gives several commands.

Be careful.

Stay calm.

Do not fear.

Do not lose heart.

What Ahaz sees as blazing danger, God sees as:

Smoldering remains.

Their power is temporary.

Cross References

2 Kings 19:6

God later tells Hezekiah not to fear the threatening words spoken by Assyrian officials because their arrogance will not overturn His purpose.

Isaiah 41:10

God tells His people not to fear because He is with them, will strengthen them, help them, and uphold them with His righteous hand.

Amos 4:11

God reminds Israel that some had been rescued like a burning stick pulled from the fire, yet they still failed to return to Him.

Spiritual Principle

God sees the true condition of what frightens us.

Key Truth

Something can look powerful to us and already be finished in God's plan.

V. THE ENEMIES PLOT AGAINST JUDAH

Isaiah 7:5 — A Deliberate Conspiracy

“Aram, Ephraim, and Remaliah's son have plotted against you, saying,”

The threat is organized.

This is not imagination.

There is an actual plan.

The enemy has:

Strategy.

Intention.

Purpose.

But a human plan is still subordinate to God.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:5

Aram and Israel joined forces and moved against Jerusalem during Ahaz's reign.

Psalms 83:5

Enemies join together with one purpose and form alliances against God's people.

2 Chronicles 28:6

Pekah defeated Judah severely because Judah had turned away from the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Faith does not deny that opposition exists.

Faith recognizes that opposition is still limited by God.

VI. THEY PLAN TO REPLACE THE DAVIDIC KING

Isaiah 7:6 — The Son of Tabeal

“Let us attack Judah, tear it apart, and divide it among ourselves. We will install the son of Tabeal as king.”

Their goal is not merely attack.

They intend to:

Break Judah.

Divide it.

Replace Ahaz.

This threatens the Davidic dynasty.

But God had made covenant promises concerning David's line.

The plan therefore collides with God's larger purpose.

Cross References

Psalms 2:2

Kings and rulers join together against the Lord and against His Anointed, imagining they can overthrow divine authority.

2 Kings 15:37

Rezin and Pekah had already begun pressing Judah during the reign before Ahaz.

Hosea 5:13

When Ephraim saw its sickness and Judah saw its wound, they turned toward foreign political power, but that power could not truly heal them.

Spiritual Principle

Plans against God's purposes ultimately fail.

VII. GOD SAYS THE PLAN WILL NOT STAND

Isaiah 7:7 — “It Will Not Happen”

“But this is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘It will not happen; it will not take place.’”

The enemies say:

We will.

God says:

You will not.

The decisive word belongs to:

The Sovereign Lord.

Cross References

Proverbs 19:21

Many plans may fill a person's mind, but the purpose of the Lord is what ultimately stands.

Isaiah 8:10

People may form plans and make strategies, but they will fail because God is with His people.

Numbers 23:19

God is not like a human being who lies or changes His mind carelessly; what He says He will do, He is able to accomplish.

Spiritual Principle

God's Word outranks human conspiracy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God says, “It will not stand,” human power cannot make it stand.

VIII. EPHRAIM’S POWER WILL BE BROKEN

Isaiah 7:8 — Sixty-Five Years

“For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered as a people.”

God places limits around human kingdoms.

Aram has:

Damascus.

Rezin.

Ephraim has:

Samaria.

Pekah.

But neither possesses ultimate authority.

Ephraim’s national identity will be shattered.

Cross References

2 Kings 17:6

The king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried the Israelites away into exile, scattering them into foreign regions.

Amos 1:5

God warned that Damascus would lose its power and its people would experience exile.

Ezra 4:2

Later populations in the region referred to their relocation there under Assyrian rulers, reflecting the population shifts that followed conquest.

Spiritual Principle

Human kingdoms have boundaries and expiration dates.

IX. FAITH DETERMINES WHETHER AHAZ WILL STAND

Isaiah 7:9 — “Stand Firm in Faith”

“The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is Remaliah’s son. If you do not stand firm in faith, you will not stand at all.””

This is the theological heart of the first half of the chapter.

Ahaz wants stability.

God tells him where stability is found:

Faith.

Not:

Diplomacy.

Military calculation.

Foreign alliances.

Fear.

Cross References

2 Chronicles 20:20

Jehoshaphat told Judah to trust the Lord and they would be established; trust His prophets and they would succeed in the way God intended.

Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone approaching Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

2 Kings 17:6

Samaria eventually fell to Assyria, showing that Ephraim’s apparent strength could not preserve the kingdom.

Spiritual Principle

Faith is not emotional optimism.

It is confidence in God’s Word.

Key Truth

If your foundation is not faith in God, everything else eventually shifts.

X. GOD OFFERS AHAZ A SIGN

Isaiah 7:10 — God Speaks Again

“The Lord spoke again to Ahaz,”

God continues speaking.

Ahaz has not demonstrated trust.

Yet God gives another opportunity.

This is grace.

Cross References

2 Kings 20:8

Hezekiah later asked for a sign confirming that God would heal him and allow him to worship again.

Judges 6:36

Gideon asked God for confirmation concerning the promise that Israel would be delivered through him.

Matthew 12:38

Some religious leaders asked Jesus to show them a miraculous sign.

Spiritual Principle

God may graciously confirm His Word when He chooses.

XI. GOD INVITES AHAZ TO ASK FOR A SIGN

Isaiah 7:11 — As Deep or High as Desired

“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

God’s offer is extraordinary.

Ahaz can ask for:

A deep sign.

A high sign.

God is effectively saying:

Ask for something unmistakable.

The Lord wants Ahaz to trust Him.

Cross References

Judges 6:37

Gideon asked God to confirm His promise through the sign involving the fleece and dew.

2 Kings 20:9

Isaiah gave Hezekiah a choice concerning a miraculous sign involving the movement of the shadow.

John 20:25

Thomas said he wanted visible evidence of Jesus' wounds before he would believe the resurrection testimony.

Spiritual Principle

When God Himself offers confirmation, accepting it is not unbelief.

XII. AHAZ REFUSES UNDER THE APPEARANCE OF PIETY

Isaiah 7:12 — “I Will Not Test the Lord”

“But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask; I will not test the Lord.’”

Ahaz sounds spiritual.

He quotes a biblical principle.

Yet the context reveals the problem.

God commanded him:

Ask.

Refusing a commanded sign is not humility.

It is unbelief.

Ahaz has already turned politically toward Assyria for help.

Cross References

Deuteronomy 6:16

Israel was commanded not to test the Lord rebelliously as they had done in the wilderness.

Matthew 4:7

Jesus quoted this command when refusing Satan's temptation to manufacture a sign by throwing Himself from the temple.

2 Kings 16:7

Ahaz sent messengers to the king of Assyria, declaring himself a servant and asking Assyria to rescue him from Aram and Israel.

Spiritual Principle

Religious language can sometimes hide unbelief.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Obedience never consists of using one Scripture to avoid another clear command from God.

XIII. AHAZ WEARIES GOD

Isaiah 7:13 — The House of David Rebuked

“Then Isaiah said, ‘Hear now, house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God?’”

Isaiah no longer says merely:

Your God.

He says:

“my God.”

Ahaz's refusal reveals distance.

He has rejected divine reassurance.

The house of David is being confronted.

Cross References

Numbers 16:9

Moses rebuked rebellious Levites for treating God's gracious appointment and service as though it were too small or unimportant.

Malachi 2:17

The people wearied the Lord by distorting moral truth and questioning God's justice.

2 Kings 16:10

Ahaz traveled to Damascus and became impressed with a pagan altar, ordering a copy made for use in Jerusalem.

Spiritual Principle

Unbelief can disguise itself as religion while resisting God.

XIV. GOD HIMSELF GIVES THE SIGN OF IMMANUEL

Isaiah 7:14 — “God With Us”

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (which means, ‘God with us’).”

This is one of the most significant prophecies in Isaiah.

God gives the sign.

A child will be born.

His name:

Immanuel.

Meaning:

God with us.

Within Isaiah's historical setting, the sign assures the house of David that God's purpose will not be overturned by Rezin and Pekah.

But the New Testament explicitly identifies the climactic fulfillment of this prophecy in Jesus Christ.

Cross References

Matthew 1:23

Matthew quotes Isaiah's prophecy and applies it to the birth of Jesus, explaining that the child is called Immanuel, meaning “God with us.”

Luke 1:31

The angel told Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son whom she was to name Jesus.

Micah 5:2

Micah foretells that a ruler for Israel will come from Bethlehem, whose origins reach back into ancient times.

Spiritual Principle

God's greatest answer to human fear is ultimately His presence.

Key Truth

Immanuel means that God's saving purpose is not distant.

God comes near.

XV. THE CHILD WILL LIVE DURING A TIME OF HARDSHIP

Isaiah 7:15 — Curds and Honey

“By the time he knows enough to reject wrong and choose right, he will be eating curds and honey.”

Curds and honey can sound luxurious.

In context, however, the later verses show a land reduced from agricultural abundance to pastoral subsistence.

The child's development becomes part of the timetable.

Before he reaches a certain age:

Political conditions will change.

Cross References

Isaiah 8:4

Before Isaiah's child could clearly say “father” or “mother,” the wealth of Damascus and spoil of Samaria would be carried away by Assyria.

2 Kings 16:9

The king of Assyria responded to Ahaz's appeal, attacked Damascus, captured it, exiled its inhabitants, and killed Rezin.

2 Kings 15:29

Assyria captured several northern territories and carried their inhabitants away into exile.

Spiritual Principle

God's promises unfold according to His timetable, not human panic.

XVI. THE TWO THREATENING KINGS WILL BE REMOVED

Isaiah 7:16 — The Feared Lands Laid Waste

“For before the boy knows to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.”

Ahaz fears:

Rezin.

Pekah.

God says their power will not last.

The kings who seem overwhelming will soon be removed.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:9

Assyria conquered Damascus and killed Rezin, removing one of the kings Ahaz feared.

2 Chronicles 28:20

Although Ahaz turned to Assyria, the Assyrian king eventually brought trouble rather than true help.

Isaiah 8:4

Before Isaiah's child grew old enough for basic speech, Assyria would carry off the wealth of Damascus and Samaria.

Spiritual Principle

Today's great fear may become tomorrow's forgotten threat.

XVII. ASSYRIA WILL BECOME A GREATER PROBLEM

Isaiah 7:17 — The King of Assyria Comes

“The Lord will bring upon you, your people, and your father’s house a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—He will bring the king of Assyria.”

Ahaz looks toward Assyria for salvation.

God says:

Assyria is coming.

But not merely as:

An ally.

It will become:

A judgment.

This is one of the great ironies of the chapter.

The power Ahaz trusts instead of God becomes a source of suffering.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:7

Ahaz appealed to Assyria for help, identifying himself as the Assyrian king’s servant and asking to be rescued.

2 Chronicles 28:20

Instead of strengthening Ahaz, the Assyrian king came against him and brought additional distress.

Isaiah 8:7

Isaiah later compares Assyria to a powerful overflowing river that God will bring against the land.

Spiritual Principle

What we trust instead of God can become the very thing that enslaves us.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Be careful whom you ask to save you.

Some rescuers eventually become masters.

XVIII. GOD SUMMONS FOREIGN POWERS

Isaiah 7:18 — The Fly and the Bee

“In that day the Lord will whistle for the fly from Egypt’s distant streams and for the bee from the land of Assyria.”

God is pictured summoning nations.

Egypt:

Like a fly.

Assyria:

Like a bee.

The imagery communicates:

Numbers.

Persistence.

Invasion.

Once again, God remains sovereign over geopolitical powers.

Cross References

Hosea 11:11

God pictures His scattered people eventually coming from Egypt and Assyria, trembling like birds as He brings them home.

Isaiah 5:26

God raises a signal for a distant nation and whistles for it to come swiftly as an instrument of judgment.

Deuteronomy 28:49

Moses warned that covenant rebellion could bring a distant nation against Israel with the speed of an eagle.

Spiritual Principle

Nations may imagine they act independently, but God remains sovereign over history.

XIX. THE INVADING POWERS WILL FILL THE LAND

Isaiah 7:19 — No Place Untouched

“They will come and settle in steep ravines, in rocky crevices, among thornbushes, and in all the watering holes.”

The picture is comprehensive.

Foreign forces fill:

Ravines.

Crevices.

Thorns.

Watering places.

There is no easy escape.

Cross References

Judges 6:2

When Midian oppressed Israel, the people hid in mountain caves, dens, and strongholds.

Isaiah 2:19

Isaiah describes people hiding in caves and holes because of the terror of the Lord’s judgment.

Revelation 6:15

Kings, rulers, powerful people, and ordinary people alike hide in caves and among the rocks when divine judgment becomes unavoidable.

Spiritual Principle

False security disappears quickly when judgment reaches every hiding place.

XX. ASSYRIA IS GOD’S HIRED RAZOR

Isaiah 7:20 — Humiliation Through Assyria

“In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the Euphrates—the king of Assyria—to shave your head and private parts, and to cut off your beard also.”

The imagery is intentionally humiliating.

Assyria is:

A razor.

But notice:

The razor is **hired**.

Assyria may think it acts by its own power.

God is sovereignly using it as an instrument of judgment.

The shaving symbolizes:

Humiliation.

Defeat.

Loss of dignity.

Cross References

2 Kings 16:7

Ahaz hired Assyrian help through submission and payment, turning toward foreign power instead of trusting God.

Ezekiel 29:18

A foreign king is described as performing exhausting military labor in the course of accomplishing judgment.

Isaiah 10:5

Assyria is later called the rod of God's anger, an instrument used in divine judgment.

Spiritual Principle

God can use even ungodly powers as temporary instruments without approving their wickedness.

XXI. THE LAND WILL RETURN TO SIMPLE SURVIVAL

Isaiah 7:21 — A Cow and Two Goats

“In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two goats.”

The land has been devastated.

Agriculture is reduced.

Instead of expansive vineyards and fields, survivors depend upon:

A few animals.

The picture is one of:

Scarcity.

Simplification.

Survival.

Cross References

Isaiah 7:15

The child will eat curds and honey, food associated here with the changed conditions of the devastated land.

2 Samuel 17:29

During a time of need, David and his men were supplied with food including dairy products and other basic provisions.

Judges 6:4

Midian repeatedly destroyed Israel's crops and livestock, leaving the land impoverished and the people struggling to survive.

Spiritual Principle

War and rebellion can reduce prosperity to subsistence.

XXII. THE SURVIVORS WILL EAT CURDS AND HONEY

Isaiah 7:22 — Provision in a Desolate Land

“And because of the abundance of milk they give, he will have curds to eat. All who remain in the land will eat curds and honey.”

Agriculture is diminished.

But livestock graze freely because much of the land is no longer cultivated.

Those who remain eat:

Curds.

Honey.

This is not mainly a picture of luxury.

It is survival in a depopulated land.

Cross References

Isaiah 7:15

The child associated with the sign will eat curds and honey during the period of national upheaval.

Deuteronomy 32:14

God once blessed Israel with rich milk, meat, grain, grapes, and abundant provision from the land.

2 Samuel 17:29

Food including dairy products was supplied to David's exhausted followers during a difficult period.

Spiritual Principle

Even in judgment, God can preserve survivors.

XXIII. VALUABLE VINEYARDS BECOME THORNS

Isaiah 7:23 — Prosperity Becomes Desolation

“In that day, in every place where there used to be a thousand vines worth a thousand silver pieces, there will be only briers and thorns.”

Formerly valuable land becomes:

Overgrown.

Useless.

Dangerous.

What once represented wealth now displays judgment.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:6

God warned that His vineyard would become a wasteland filled with briers and thorns.

Isaiah 32:13

Thorns and briars will grow over land and places once associated with celebration and prosperity.

Hosea 2:12

God warns that vineyards and fig trees wrongly attributed to false gods would be ruined and turned into wild places.

Spiritual Principle

Material prosperity is never beyond the reach of change.

XXIV. THE LAND BECOMES DANGEROUS

Isaiah 7:24 — Bows and Arrows

“Men will go there with bows and arrows, for the land will be covered with briars and thorns.”

Land once cultivated becomes wild.

People now need weapons to enter areas where agriculture once flourished.

The transformation is dramatic.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:6

God said the vineyard would become uncultivated and overgrown with briars and thorns.

Genesis 3:18

After humanity's fall, the ground would produce thorns and thistles, showing how sin affects creation and human labor.

Hosea 10:8

Thorns and weeds will grow over places associated with false worship when judgment comes.

Spiritual Principle

Sin turns cultivated places into wilderness.

XXV. CULTIVATED HILLS BECOME GRAZING LAND

Isaiah 7:25 — Agriculture Abandoned

“As for the hills once cultivated with a hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briers and thorns. They will become places where cattle are turned loose and sheep trample.”

The chapter ends with abandoned agriculture.

Hills once carefully cultivated become:

Wild pasture.

The judgment is complete.

The land reflects the spiritual condition of the people.

Cross References

Isaiah 5:6

The vineyard becomes uncultivated, overgrown, and abandoned because of judgment.

Isaiah 27:4

God speaks of dealing decisively with briers and thorns that stand against His purposes.

Micah 7:14

Micah asks God to shepherd His people and let them feed in good pasture as in former days.

Spiritual Principle

Rejecting God’s cultivation eventually produces spiritual and material wilderness.

XXVI. EIGHT GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 7

1. Fear Can Distort Perspective

Ahaz sees two unstoppable powers.

God sees:

Two smoking stumps.

Principle:

Fear enlarges threats and shrinks our awareness of God.

2. God's Word Is Greater Than Human Plans

The enemies say:

“We will.”

God says:

“It will not happen.”

Principle:

Human conspiracy cannot overturn divine purpose.

3. Faith Is the Foundation of Stability

God tells Ahaz:

“If you do not stand firm in faith, you will not stand at all.”

Principle:

Spiritual stability begins with confidence in God.

4. Religious Language Can Hide Unbelief

Ahaz says he will not test God.

But he is actually refusing God's command.

Principle:

Not every spiritual-sounding statement comes from faith.

5. Immanuel Is the Great Sign of Hope

God promises:

“God with us.”

Principle:

The greatest assurance is not merely that circumstances will improve but that God is with His people.

6. False Alliances Carry Consequences

Ahaz trusts Assyria.

Assyria becomes trouble.

Principle:

What replaces trust in God often demands more than we intended to give.

7. God Is Sovereign Over Nations

He whistles.

Nations come.

Principle:

No empire operates outside God's ultimate authority.

8. God Preserves a Remnant Even Through Judgment

Some remain in the land.

Principle:

Judgment does not eliminate God's ability to preserve His purposes.

XXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT FEAR

Ahaz's heart shakes.

Fear is understandable.

But God commands:

Stay calm.

Do not fear.

Do not lose heart.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear becomes spiritually dangerous when it becomes the basis for decision-making.

XXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT FAITH

Faith means standing upon what God says even when circumstances say something else.

Ahaz sees:

Armies.

God gives:

A promise.

The question is:

Which will define reality for him?

Spiritual Principle

Faith does not ignore circumstances.

It places circumstances beneath God's Word.

XXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Rezin plots.

Pekah plots.

Ahaz plots.

Assyria acts.

Yet:

God speaks the decisive word.

Key Truth

History contains many human plans but only one ultimate Sovereign.

XXX. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT SIGNS

Ahaz is invited to ask for a sign.

The offer originates with God.

Therefore asking would have been obedience.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A sign sought in unbelief is different from a sign offered by God to strengthen faith.

XXXI. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT HYPOCRISY

Ahaz quotes the principle:

Do not test God.

But he uses it to resist God.

That is religious hypocrisy.

Spiritual Principle

We can misuse correct words to justify incorrect hearts.

XXXII. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT IMMANUEL

Immanuel means:

God with us.

This is the theological center of the chapter.

Judah fears abandonment.

God answers with presence.

The New Testament identifies the fullest realization of this promise in Jesus Christ.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The greatest answer to fear is not:

“Nothing bad will ever happen.”

It is:

“God is with us.”

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

Matthew directly applies Isaiah 7:14 to Jesus.

Jesus is:

Born through the virgin conception.

The promised Son.

Immanuel.

God with us.

Key Truth

Jesus is not merely a sign from God.

He is God’s saving presence with His people.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT FALSE SECURITY

Ahaz thinks Assyria is the solution.

But Assyria becomes a threat.

This pattern appears repeatedly in Scripture.

People turn from God toward:

Power.

Money.

Influence.

Government.

Human alliances.

Then discover those things cannot provide ultimate security.

Spiritual Principle

Whatever you make your savior may eventually become your master.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT JUDGMENT

The chapter ends with:

Invasion.

Humiliation.

Scarcity.

Thorns.

Desolation.

Unbelief has consequences.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's promises are gracious, but refusing them is never spiritually neutral.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 7 TEACHES ABOUT THE LAND

The land reflects the covenant condition of the people.

Productive vineyards become:

Briers.

Cultivated hills become:

Pasture.

Prosperity becomes:

Scarcity.

Spiritual Principle

Sin can destroy what generations of blessing helped build.

XXXVII. TWO SMOLDERING STUMPS

This is one of the great images of the chapter.

Ahaz sees:

Blazing danger.

God sees:

Dying fire.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Ask not only:

“What does this threat look like to me?”

Ask:

“How does it look from God’s throne?”

XXXVIII. “IT WILL NOT HAPPEN”

These words expose the limitations of human planning.

The enemy has:

A strategy.

A military.

A political goal.

But God has spoken.

Spiritual Principle

When human plans collide with God’s purpose, God’s purpose wins.

XXXIX. “IF YOU DO NOT STAND FIRM IN FAITH”

This is a warning to every generation.

Stability depends upon:

Faith.

When faith disappears, people grasp for substitutes.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You cannot build lasting spiritual stability on fear-driven decisions.

XL. THE FALSE HUMILITY OF AHAZ

Ahaz sounds obedient.

But he is disobedient.

This teaches us to examine not merely what we say but why we say it.

Spiritual Principle

God hears the motive beneath the religious sentence.

XLI. GOD GIVES THE SIGN ANYWAY

Ahaz refuses.

God still gives:

Immanuel.

That shows the sign is bigger than Ahaz.

It belongs to:

The house of David.

God’s covenant purpose.

The coming Messiah.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Human unbelief cannot cancel God's redemptive plan.

XLII. THE IRONY OF ASSYRIA

Ahaz pays Assyria to help.

God says Assyria will become a razor against Judah.

This is tragic irony.

Spiritual Principle

The shortcut around faith often becomes the long road into trouble.

XLIII. GOD WITH US

This phrase changes the chapter.

The armies may be near.

But:

God is nearer.

The future may be uncertain.

But:

God is present.

Key Truth

The presence of God is greater than the presence of the enemy.

XLIV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why was Judah afraid?

Aram and Israel had joined forces and threatened Jerusalem.

Question 2

How does Isaiah describe their fear?

Their hearts shook like trees moved by the wind.

Question 3

What message did God give Ahaz?

Stay calm.

Do not fear.

Do not lose heart.

Question 4

How did God describe the two enemy kings?

As two smoldering stumps of firewood.

Question 5

What did Rezin and Pekah plan to do?

They intended to invade Judah, divide the land, and install another king.

Question 6

What did God say about their plan?

“It will not happen; it will not take place.”

Question 7

What does verse 9 teach about faith?

Without standing firm in faith, Ahaz would not possess lasting stability.

Question 8

Why did God offer Ahaz a sign?

To confirm His promise and call Ahaz to trust Him.

Question 9

Was Ahaz's refusal really an act of faith?

No.

His words sounded religious, but he had already chosen political dependence on Assyria.

Question 10

What sign did God give?

A virgin would conceive and bear a son called Immanuel.

Question 11

What does Immanuel mean?

God with us.

Question 12

How does the New Testament understand Isaiah 7:14?

Matthew applies it directly to the birth of Jesus Christ.

Question 13

What happened to the kings Ahaz feared?

Their kingdoms were broken by Assyrian power.

Question 14

What happened because Ahaz depended on Assyria?

The power he trusted became an instrument of trouble and judgment.

Question 15

How does the chapter end?

It ends with Judah's land devastated, overgrown, and reduced from prosperity to survival.

XLV. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 7 asks several searching questions.

What Threat Is Making My Heart Shake?

What am I allowing to control my thoughts?

Am I Seeing the Threat Through Fear or Through Faith?

What does God say about it?

Where Am I Looking for Security?

God?

Money?

People?

Political power?

Influence?

My own ability?

Am I Standing Firm in Faith?

Or am I making fear-driven decisions?

Do I Use Religious Words to Avoid Obedience?

Have I ever made disobedience sound spiritual?

Do I Believe God Is With Me?

How would I respond differently if I truly remembered:

Immanuel?

Am I Trusting Something That Could Eventually Control Me?

What have I chosen as a substitute savior?

Do I Believe God's Plans Are Stronger Than Human Plans?

When people conspire, do I still believe God reigns?

XLVI. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Fear Says, ‘Look at Their Power.’ Faith Says, ‘Listen to God’s Word.’”

Ahaz saw:

Aram.

Israel.

Armies.

Political danger.

God saw:

Two dying fires.

Principle:

The size of the threat is never more important than the certainty of God’s Word.

XLVII. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FEAR AND FAITH

Fear asks:

“What if?”

Faith asks:

“What has God said?”

Fear imagines:

Worst-case scenarios.

Faith rests in:

Divine truth.

Spiritual Principle

Faith does not eliminate every fearful feeling.

It refuses to let fear become lord.

XLVIII. WHEN HUMAN PLANS COLLIDE WITH GOD'S PLAN

Rezin has a plan.

Pekah has a plan.

Ahaz has a plan.

God has a plan.

Guess which one survives.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You may not control what others plan against you.

You can control whether you trust the God who rules over every plan.

XLIX. THE GREATER SIGN

Ahaz is worried about:

A military crisis.

God points ultimately to:

Immanuel.

This teaches us something profound.

Our immediate problem may feel enormous.

But God's redemptive plan is always larger.

Spiritual Principle

God often answers temporary fear with eternal truth.

L. FROM AHAZ TO CHRIST

Isaiah 7 begins with:

A frightened king.

It points toward:

A promised Son.

Ahaz fails in faith.

Christ embodies the fulfillment of God's promise.

Key Truth

Where human kings fail, God's promised King remains faithful.

LI. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 7 is a chapter about fear and faith.

Ahaz faces a real crisis.

Two kings have formed an alliance.

Judah is threatened.

The house of David trembles.

Fear spreads.

Then God speaks:

“Stay calm.”

“Do not be afraid.”

Why?

Not because the enemy does not exist.

Not because the armies are imaginary.

But because God has already determined the outcome.

Ahaz must decide:

Will he believe what he sees?

Or:

Will he believe what God says?

That same question confronts every believer.

There will be times when circumstances seem louder than Scripture.

Threats appear greater than promises.

Fear feels more real than faith.

In those moments:

Remember Isaiah 7.

The enemies may look like flames.

God may already see:

Smoldering stumps.

Then remember verse 9:

“If you do not stand firm in faith, you will not stand at all.”

Faith is not optional spiritual decoration.

It is foundational.

Ahaz refuses.

He chooses Assyria.

The very power he thinks will save him becomes a source of trouble.

That is one of the great warnings of the chapter.

Be careful what you turn into a substitute savior.

Money can become a master.

Power can become a master.

Politics can become a master.

Relationships can become a master.

Fear can drive us toward solutions that cost more than we imagined.

Then God gives the great sign:

“Immanuel.”

God with us.

That is the answer beyond the immediate crisis.

The Christian looks back and sees its climactic fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

God has not merely shouted encouragement from heaven.

He came near.

Therefore:

Do not let fear rule.

Stand firm in faith.

Trust God's Word.

Refuse false saviors.

Remember His sovereignty.

And above all:

Remember Immanuel.

Whatever surrounds you:

God is greater.

Whatever threatens you:

God is sovereign.

Whatever changes:

God's promise remains.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You remain sovereign when circumstances make us afraid.

Forgive us for the times our hearts shake like trees in the wind.

Forgive us when we look more at threats than at You.

Teach us to:

Stay calm.

Stand firm.

Trust Your Word.

Father, when fear comes, remind us that You see more clearly than we do.

What looks like a blazing fire to us may already be only a smoking stump in Your sight.

Give us confidence in Your sovereignty.

Keep us from making fear-driven decisions.

Protect us from trusting:

Money.

Power.

Politics.

People.

Human alliances.

More than we trust You.

Father, expose false humility.

Keep us from using religious words to hide unbelief.

Give us hearts that truly obey.

Thank You for the sign of Immanuel.

Thank You for Jesus Christ.

Thank You that in Him we see:

God with us.

When we feel alone:

Remind us.

When we feel threatened:

Remind us.

When the future feels uncertain:

Remind us.

You are with us.

Father, help us stand firm in faith.

Anchor us in Your Word.

Give us courage to believe Your promises when circumstances argue against them.

And if we are tempted to seek rescue outside Your will, stop us.

Keep our temporary solution from becoming a permanent bondage.

Teach us to wait for You.

Teach us to trust You.

Teach us to remember that every king, every nation, and every plan remains beneath Your authority.

Above all, fix our eyes upon Christ.

Immanuel.

God with us.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (which means, ‘God with us’).” — Isaiah 7:14

Central Truth

When fear threatens to control us, God calls us to stand firm in faith, trust His sovereign Word rather than human alliances, and rest in the promise of Immanuel—God with us—because human plans fail, false securities collapse, but God’s redemptive purpose remains certain.

Isaiah 7 in One Sentence

Isaiah confronts fearful King Ahaz with God’s promise that the plans of Aram and Israel will fail, calls him to stand firm in faith, gives the sign of Immanuel as the ultimate assurance of God’s presence, and warns that trusting Assyria instead of the Lord will bring the very judgment Ahaz hoped to escape.