

GOD WITH US IN LOVE

ISAIAH 7:10-16

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The Story in Isaiah 7



- Part 1: “Do not be Afraid” vv.1-9
- Part 2: “The Sign” (vv.10-17)

“Do Not Be Afraid” (Isaiah 7:1-9)

- 8th century BCE
- Northern Kingdom of Israel: King Pekah
- Southern Kingdom of Judah: King Ahaz
- Tribe of Judah - the line of King David
- Location of Jerusalem and the Temple
- Isaiah was commissioned to speak to Judah (Isaiah 6)

“Do Not Be Afraid” (Isaiah 7:1-9)

- King Pekah of Israel teams up with King Rezin of Syria (Aram) to attack King Ahaz of Judah
- v.1: Israel and Syria “marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.”
- V.2: “so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.”
- King Ahaz plans to team up with Assyria

“Do Not Be Afraid” (Isaiah 7:1-9)

- v.3: God sends Isaiah to give King Ahaz a message
- “be careful... keep calm... don’t be afraid... do not lose heart...”
- These other nations (Syria and Israel) are like “two smouldering stubs of firewood” (v.4)
- You don’t need Assyria, God is on your side
- “It will not take place, it will not happen...” (v.7)



“Do Not Be Afraid” (Isaiah 7:1-9)

- God will be with Judah and Ahaz
 - “If you are not steadfast, you will not stand fast” (v.9)
- Hebrew is ‘āman, which is where we get the closing for our prayers – Amen
- A call to radical faith
 - “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me...” (2 Samuel 7:16)



“Do Not Be Afraid” (Isaiah 7:1-9)



- Walter Brueggemann: “Faith is not a matter of intellectual content or cognitive belief. It is rather a matter of quite practical reliance upon the assurance of God in a context of risk where one’s own resources are not adequate. It means to entrust one’s security and future to the attentiveness of Yahweh... to count God’s attentiveness as adequate and sure, thereby making panic anxiety, or foolishness unnecessary and inappropriate.”

“The Sign” (Isaiah 7:10-17)

- The tone is more tense: the King has not stepped up to the call to radical faith
- V.10&11: God speaking to Ahaz and offering him a sign
 - v.11: “whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights”
 - Ahaz refuses to ask for a sign
 - “I will not put the LORD to the test” (v.12)



“The Sign” (Isaiah 7:10-17)

- v.14: the sign of Emmanuel: A pregnant woman is about to give birth, and she will name her son “With Us is God.”
- God will deal with the opposing nations in two years
- Hebrew word: ‘*almâ* which means “young woman” or “woman of marriageable age”
- “*the young woman*”
 - A young woman in Ahaz’s kingdom



Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
 - and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
 - 3 though its waters roar and foam
 - and the mountains quake with their surging.

Psalm 46



- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
 - the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 God is within her, she will not fall;
 - God will help her at break of day.
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
 - he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The Lord Almighty is with us;
 - the God of Jacob is our fortress.



Psalm 46

- 8 Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- 9 He makes wars cease
 - to the ends of the earth.
 - He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
 - he burns the shields with fire.
- 10 He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;
 - I will be exalted among the nations,
 - I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 11 The Lord Almighty is with us;
 - the God of Jacob is our fortress.

“The Sign” (Isaiah 7:10-17)

- when the king hears that a young woman has acted her part, he will have his sign – a sign both of the city’s and a people’s promised hope for a future and sign of his own lack of faith - that in two years’ time, the nations will be completely dealt with and Judah will be successful
- Trust in God’s promises



“The Sign” (Isaiah 7:10-17)

- Matthew 1 - another pregnancy that is a sign of God’s faithfulness
- Joseph - another appeal to not be frightened but to trust
- The child will save his people
- Matthew 1:22-23: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel’ (which means “God with us”).”



Jesus - God With Us

- John 1:14: “became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (NIV); “became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.” (MSG)
- Matthew 28:20: “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- John 3:16-17: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”



Jesus - God With Us

- Tim Chester: “What does Emmanuel – God-with-us – mean?... it means God is with us in our danger and suffering. The One being in very nature God has come to share our pain. He’s come to share your pain. God doesn’t look at you from the sidelines. He’s not detached or uninterested. Jesus is Emmanuel. God is with us in love... Whatever the challenges or struggles you face this Christmas, you can know that God is with you and God is for you. The evidence is in the manger. Jesus is the great demonstration of God’s commitment to us. He is Emmanuel: God with us...”



And yet...



- Out of his great love for us, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, did come
- Hebrew: *Yeshua*, which means “Yahweh saves”
- he did come and he will come again
- Lord, come and save us, we wait for you to come