

Immanuel in Light of the Coming Judgment

Text: Isaiah 7:14-25

Date: 8-30-20 Outdoor Service @ 10:30 am

Review:

- 1) So, is God still at work?
- 2) Do you believe in God's promises even when it appears all hope seems lost?
- 3) Was God still at work even as wicked kings tried to ignore and disobey Him?
- 4) Will God's plans be thwarted?

C. The Relevance of Immanuel

The need for redemption was great, and Immanuel was the answer.

This sign was being offered as an assurance that the two enemy kingdoms, King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah of Israel (North), would not destroy his reign or the future of his dynasty. Immanuel would come through this kingly line.

Isaiah was deeply aware of the real situation in Judah and it wasn't these two kings trying to overcome Judah. The real issue was not Assyria potentially overrunning Israel and then Judah. The issue was much deeper and spiritual in nature. The problem was a heart problem for the people were dying from the sickness of the soul. The king of Judah was the head of the sickness and the nation was covered in sores from the head to the toe (Isa. 1:5-6).

What the people needed was a Redeemer who could completely remove their sin and apostasy. **Only God could send a Redeemer who could do this, a divine Redeemer, God with us, the Mighty God (9:7), the Root of Jesse (11:1), the suffering servant (53), the anointed one (61:1), and the very Lamb of God who in all ways could take away the sin of the world.**

Isaiah's hope was found in Immanuel alone.

Our hope today must remain in Immanuel, the real hope for Isaiah's day and the real hope for our day. Isaiah's hope was the Messianic hope and to miss that misses the complete message of His book.

Quote: "Isaiah was assuring the house of David and all the people of Israel that the dynasty of David, imperiled by foreign powers and debased by such rulers as Ahaz, would nevertheless not perish, but that God would send a Savior, of the line of David, born of a virgin, who would establish the glorious and everlasting kingdom of God (Isa. 9:6)" (Buksbazen 153).

In conclusion, as we now view the whole of the Bible and see Jesus revealed in the NT, we find that the only Person that could fulfil Isaiah's prophecy is the Lord Jesus Himself. The picture of a Divine Deliverer, born of a virgin, God with us, can only be applied to Jesus Christ.

This verse presents a window into the future, giving a glimpse of the hope of a Redeemer through the line of David, part of King Ahaz's lineage, showing Ahaz that the threat to Judah would end. Jesus did not eat butter and honey; rather, this shows in a symbolical sense the shortness of what was to come in Isaiah's day. In other words the sign for Ahaz's day was to show him that the threat from Israel and Syria would be over soon. In addition, "Verses 15 and 16 can be interpreted in terms of a hypothetical text as if the Messiah were born then to serve as a measure of current events" (<https://isaiah7-14.org/Chapter13.pdf> Pg 43). The shortness of the desolation in Ahaz' day is compared to the infant years of Christ.

Just as sure as vs. 15-16 will happen (a foretelling of what was to come soon), the events depicted in v. 14 would happen. It was as if Immanuel, the Messiah, was born in this day. In other words, if Immanuel was born now, He would eat butter and honey. He would refuse the evil and choose the good.

With that the promise and sign had been given by God Himself that Ahaz would survive. But, there was a deeper issue. Judah as a nation would be devastated by the coming judgment brought by the hand of God.

So you might ask what happens to the promise of Immanuel who was to rule on the throne of David (II Sam. 7:11-16)? As we trace the prophet's words we find clarity that he saw Christ's glory and he spoke of him (John 12:41). What Isaiah saw then was the coming Hope and Consolation of Israel. He saw the glory of the Messiah and spoke by divine revelation through the Holy Spirit (Acts 28:25). Isaiah understood what was coming to Israel and Judah and thus looked ahead to a future day of promise and hope that would be preserved in the Branch, the Servant born of a virgin.

IV. The Nation's Rejection of God leads to the Coming Desolation by Assyria (Isa. 7:18-25).

Judah was in open rebellion and was in dire need of redemption.

How does Isaiah 7:14-25 apply to me?

1. That sign, Immanuel, perfectly meets my sin and fills my deepest longing for true satisfaction.
2. This sign goes beyond my need for today as it is the perfect foundation for Israel's future restoration.
3. The fulfillment of this prophecy proves the faithfulness of the Word of God.
4. Immanuel's meaning places a clear division between Christ and all other gods/religious leaders. Why? Phil. 2 separates Christianity from other religions since their Leader operated on humility, putting others first.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God keeps His Word – Promise Keeper
2. God with us – Humility
3. God gives like no other person - Grace

What are some "call to action" truths for us from Isaiah 7:14-25?

1. When we fully trust the promises of God, we can rest assured that His plan is both the best and complete for our lives.
2. To those who love God, His purposes always achieve their desired end. So, why do we doubt God?
3. So which do you choose? Immanuel or Judgment?