

A Dangerous times. Isaiah 7:1-2.

- ❖ Those weren't good times for the kingdom of Judah. Edom and the Philistines were troubling them (2 Chronicles 28:17-18). Besides, the kings of Israel and Syria joined forces to overthrow Ahaz and to crown the son of Tabel as a stooge (Isaiah 7:6).
- ❖ They did that to become stronger because Assyria was becoming a serious threat. They were boosting their military power under the reign of Tiglath-Pileser III.
- ❖ Impious King Ahaz asked Assyria for help. It looked like a good idea then, but this plan backfired (2 Kings 16:9; 2 Chronicles 28:20).

B Believe to be established. Isaiah 7:3-9.

- ❖ Ahaz took his impiety to the extreme. He was the first king of Judah to sacrifice his own son to the idols (2 Kings 16:3). God let all those difficulties happen so he could reconsider his excessive madness (2 Chronicles 28:5, 19).
- ❖ Isaiah visited Ahaz along with his son Shear-Jashub ("A remnant shall return"). He gave the king a message of hope and begged him to trust God's power (Isaiah 7:3-4).
- ❖ Those dangerous kings (Pekah and Rezin) were just smoke for God. If Ahaz trusted God, his kingdom would stand (Isaiah 7:5-7, 9).

C Ask for a sign. Isaiah 7:10-13.

- ❖ God was willing to give Ahaz anything he asked, because He wanted to light his heart with faith so he would return to Him.
- ❖ But Ahaz didn't want God to help him. He closed the doors of his heart to faith.

D The sign: a virgin and a child. Isaiah 7:14.

- ❖ God chose the sign Himself. In two years (before a child was conceived, born, and mature enough to be able to distinguish between good and evil), the two enemy kings would no longer exist (Isaiah 7:14-16).
- ❖ The word "virgin" used in this verse doesn't imply sexual virginity, but youth. Therefore, the immediate and future fulfillments of the prophecy is clear:
 - The mother:
 - (1) Immediate: Isaiah's wife (Isaiah 8:3-4)
 - (2) Future: Mary (Matthew 1:20-23)
 - The son:
 - (1) Immediate: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (Isaiah 8:1, 18)
 - (2) Future: Jesus (Luke 1:31)

E Immanuel, "God with us". Isaiah 7:14.

- ❖ Beyond the immediate and future fulfillments of the prophecy, it's also a universal promise: God is always with us, even when we're going through hard times.
- ❖ The same God that was with Jacob in his tribulation (Genesis 32:24-30) and with the three young Hebrew men in the fire (Daniel 3:23-27) has promised to be with us too.