

## A God Given Sign - Isaiah 7

As we noted last Lord's Day, the call of Isaiah in chapter six ended with both bad news and good news. The message of God to ancient Israel is clear. Isaiah, tell the people of your nation that they will not hear nor will they understand. Tell them that I will shut their eyes and close their ears lest they should hear and understand. And further let them know that this deafness, this damning dreadful blindness will continue until their cities are laid waste and their land will be without inhabitant, let them know that they will be taken away into captivity. Yet God, using the illustration of a tree cut down to its stump, tells them that within that stump will be a holy Seed a remnant by means of which all of God's promises will be fulfilled.

God's revelations of the coming Redeemer King have been brought to His church as it were, a little at a time. That is why we refer to the Old Testament as the "history of Redemption". The first Gospel promise of a coming "Seed" was first made known in Genesis 3:15, when God said to the serpent, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."* Here was the first promise that a coming Seed of the woman would bring a final judgment to Satan and within it a hidden hope of deliverance for God's people from that Deceiver's deception and from that judgment of death that his deception had brought upon all men. It is made clear that Satan will be defeated by a wound to the head and the Seed of woman will also be bruised, but only a bruising if the heel.

Next we hear of a covenant promise God makes with Abraham promising that that in him, in his Seed all the nations of the earth will indeed be blessed. Now we are made aware that this blessing will come through a descendant of Abraham. As time passed we were also made aware that this one would be a descendant of David. Now here is Isaiah chapter seven the promise of that coming seed is made a bit clearer here for here we will find that this Seed will be born of a virgin. In a quick reading it appears to be out of place but a closer look this morning will make clear to us why we find it here and what God is saying to His people. First we shall see that the house of David is threatened. Second we shall see word of comfort given. Thirdly we shall see a sign promised and rejected and then finally the Lord Himself providing a sign.

- A. The House of David is threatened - *Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it . . . And it was told to the house of David, saying, "Syria's forces are deployed in Ephraim"*
1. Ahaz and his court is quite disturbed by this news. - *So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind*
  2. In the meantime God tells Isaiah to take his son *Shear-Jashub* and meet Ahaz at the end of *the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller's Field,*
    - a. These are real places of history
    - b. Not a merely stories containing moral teaching
    - c. The story of redemption is a history that took place in time and space.
    - d. Redemption is something God did in real time and completely outside of us.
  3. Another thing of interest here is how God uses names to teach us
    - a. Take your son *Shear-Jashub* with you to meet Ahaz - Shear-Jashub? A remnant shall return
    - b. Isaiah has been given a prophetic message proclaiming the end of David's earthly house
    - c. But He also has a message of hope in a continuing remnant

- B. Assurance given with the offer of a sign rejected, a sign is given by God.
1. Take heed and do nothing
  2. They are but tails of a firebrand
  3. It is at this time God offers a miraculous sign as evidence - *"Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."*
    - a. Ahaz - the disobedient idolater responds - *But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"*
    - b. God sees the hypocrisy
- C. It is here that God intervenes and gives another promise of the coming Seed of woman.
1. Through the prophet God now responds. - *Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."*
  2. So you see it is not out of place it is God's response to Ahaz's hypocrisy
  3. Now it has nothing to do with the present situation
    - a. It has nothing to do with nation as a nation
    - b. It is a message to God's remnant people
  4. It is another revelation from God concerning the promised Seed of woman, the promised Seed of Abraham, the promised Seed of David.
    - a. It is a miraculous sign
    - b. A virgin shall conceive - a young lady who has not know a man shall conceive
    - c. She will bear a Son
    - d. His name will be significant He shall be called Immanuel - God with us

CONCLUSION: The fulfillment

*Luke 1:26-27, 30-34 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. - - - Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

*Matt 1:20-23 Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*