

Our text takes place Somewhere around 734 B.C.

At this time, Israel was a divided nation.

The Nation of Israel became divided over two hundred years earlier around 931 B.C. after the death of Solomon, son of King David.

The Northern Kingdom, after this division, was known as Israel (*and sometimes Ephraim*) and the Southern Kingdom after the split is known as Judah.

The covenant that God made to King David concerning the promised Messiah King would come from his family and finds its fulfillment in the southern kingdom, Judah.

Why? Because that's where David's family continued to live and reign.

Enter king Ahaz, a descendant of David, an evil king that led the Southern kingdom of Judah into the worship of other gods and severe acts of immorality.

Ahaz was warned by the prophets Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah.

Even with all of these warnings, Ahaz would not repent from his sin, he refused to change the way that he governed and ruled the people.

There was also great political unrest in the surrounding nations.

Assyria was a powerful nation, one that was threatening the safety of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms.

The other two regions that were also threats, were Syria and Damascus.

Syria and the Northern Kingdom, which is described as Ephraim in our text, along with Damascus wanted Ahaz and the Southern Kingdom of Judah to join them in this plot.

Ahaz refused, and because of his refusal the rulers of Syria and Damascus made a plan to kill Ahaz and wipe out his family and replace him with a foreign king, the son of Tabel.

Not only did this threaten Judah, it also threatened the fulfillment of God's promise to David, it threatened the fulfillment of the Messiah King coming from the family of David.

Enter God into the situation, through the prophet Isaiah.

God sought out Ahaz through the prophet Isaiah, and warned him and commanded Ahaz to ask for a sign from God.

God revealed that the sign that Ahaz could chose would assure Ahaz that God would protect Judah and the house of David from losing its kingdom.

Amazingly Ahaz refused God's gracious offer, and because Ahaz refused God's offer, which was the wrong thing to do, *God Himself would offer a sign.*

A sign that the world would know that God is a God who keeps His promise, even in the midst of an evil and hard-hearted people.

It would be a sign that God's love is unfailing, even when the love of humanity fails, God's love remains forever faithful.

It is a sign that assured God's promise to David, even though Ahaz chose for himself and his people the way of discipline and judgement for the Southern Kingdom of Judah, instead of repenting and turning to God for help.

It is a sign that reveals that God Himself will suddenly appear in His temple, appearing as child who was born of a young virgin girl named Mary.

1. Human governments will always fail.

Isaiah 7:10-12 (ESV)

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, *"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."* But Ahaz said, *"I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."*

Ahaz was given another chance to repent, not only for himself, but also a second chance for the people in the southern kingdom of Judah.

As a descendant of King David, Ahaz has failed miserably.

2 Kings 16:1-4 (ESV) *In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah, began to reign. Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done, but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.*

Study Question:

- 1. How does Ahaz's sin, stated in 2 Kings 1-4, reflect that of our own society?**
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Now at first glance, Ahaz's response to God might seem like the right thing to do.

He quotes Deuteronomy to support his decision (Dt 6:16).

What's really going on in this text is that Ahaz is using Scripture much like the devil did when he tempted Christ in the wilderness.

He uses Scripture to avoid doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

Ahaz willingly used Scripture to make his lack of trust in God to seem right, twisting Scripture to cover up his own sin.

God wanted Ahaz to repent, place his trust in Him, and become the leader God had called him to be. But Ahaz refused.

However, because of God's faithfulness and His great love for humanity, He refused to allow the sinful choices of a wicked king to interfere with His promise of salvation that would be revealed in the promised Messiah King, Jesus!

2. God is faithful even when we are not.

Isaiah 7:13-14 (ESV)

And Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that 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.

God reveals that the power and efforts of mankind failed again (*like there was any doubt of that*).

This is yet more incriminating evidence against the sinfulness of humanity and that it could only be God Himself that could rule and reign according to His holiness.

It had to be a King like Jesus, fully God, fully man, the great redeemer who is the promised Messiah King.

Human leadership failed again!! God now intervenes and tells Ahaz and all the world that He will personally chose a miraculous sign, and send a King who is worthy to rule His People.

This King's birth will be extraordinary & miraculous.

The promised Messiah would be born as part of the family of David yet outside of the infection of sin, **He would be born as a man, born subject to the God's perfect law and live the SINLESS life that we cannot.**

God's presence is promised in the form of a human male child, the Messiah King, who is Christ the Lord.

Through this child King, a new government , a new kingdom will arise.

And when this new kingdom is established, these three nations that concerned Ahaz so much, will be long gone.

God's will always will supersede that of human ability and strength.

God went to great lengths to change Ahaz's mind.

Jesus is the realization and fulfillment of this Promise penned by the prophet Isaiah.

He has gone through great lengths to provide salvation through the work and person of Jesus Christ.

God knew that humanity would fail, He knew He would have to send His one and only Son.

Ahaz refused to place his trust in the Lord, I pray that none of us here would make that same mistake.

My prayer is this, today if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart like Ahaz did, trust your life to the person who fulfills our text.

Place your trust in Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, He is the 2nd person of the Trinity who suffered with us and for us as one of us in order to redeem us!

Place your trust in Christ, you will not be put to shame (Romans 10:8-13)!

Study Questions:

- A. How is God's faithfulness revealed in this text?**
- B. Think of a time that you weren't trusting God the way you would have liked to and God was faithful anyway.**
- C. How does God's promise of salvation realized and fulfilled in Christ Jesus encourage and assure you?**