Immanuel: God is with us

(Have No FEAR!)

Isaiah 7 – 8

1-10-2024

Introduction: Isaiah 7:1
People's hearts were moved with fear as Syria and Ephraim (the Northern 10 tribes) conspire to conquer and take over Judah. Yet God gave a sign and a promise to expel all fear.

Despite her wickedness, God promises His presence to Judah & Jerusalem!

God's promise of His presence applies to believers today!

**** God is with us!*** (7:14; 8:8; 8:10)

I. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His sovereign CONTROL</u> (7:2-9)

> *"If you are unsure, you will be insecure" (v.9)*

II. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His sovereign PROMISES</u> (7:10-16)

III. If God is with us, we should <u>trust HIM, not men</u> (7:17-8:18)

IV. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His WORD, not the spiritists or wizards</u> (8:19-22)

Application: ***Romans 8:31***
What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Because God is with his people, there is . . .

- **No need to fear other PEOPLE** *(Ps 56:4: Ps 118:6)*
- **No need to fear the LOSS of Material Things** *(Hebrews 13:5 -6)*
- **No need to fear DEATH** *(Rev. 1:17-18)*
- **No need to fear CONDEMNATION** *(Rom 8:1; Ro 5:1; 1Th 5:9; 1Jo 4:18)*
- **No need to fear TRAGEDY, TRIALS, & TRIBULATIONS** *(Phil. 4:6-7)*

1 Peter 5:7
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

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IV. If God is with us, we can <u>trust</u>

(8:19-22)

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1-10-2024

Introduction: The fear caused by the terrorist activity of September 11, 2001 (911).

Isaiah 7:1
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**** God is with us!*** (7:14; 8:8; 8:10)

I. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His sovereign CONTROL</u> (7:2-9)

7:1
Although Ahaz had a godly great-grandfather (Amaziah – 2 Ki. 14:1-22), and a godly grandfather (Uzziah/Azariah – 2 Ki. 15:1-7), and a godly father (Jotham – 2 Ki. 15:32-38), this king Ahaz was a <u>wicked</u> king over Judah (2 Ki. 16).

Ahaz started his reign at the age of 20 and was an evil man (2 Ki. 16:2).

--Ahaz sacrificed his son to Molech (v. 3)

--Ahaz built pagan altars on various high places and sacrificed there (v. 4)

--Ahaz gave the silver and gold found in the house of the Lord to the Assyrian king Tiglathpileser to "butter him up" and obtain his services over his enemies (made allegiance with an enemy of God) (v. 7-8)

--Ahaz copied the pagan worship altar of Damascus and had a replica built for worship at God's Temple (v. 101-16)

Yet despite Ahaz's wickedness, God would spare him and the people of Judah from an attempted conquest by Syria and Ephraim, who "went up

toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it" (Is. 7:1).

7:2
"His heart was moved, and the heart of his people. . ." – They were scared spitless and were trembling greatly.

Can you imagine the fear that would grip your heart if your neighborhood was under attack by an invading enemy?!

7:4
"Fear not" - Relax and be calm, because these two stubs of smoldering firebrands (i.e. these two extinguished small pieces of firewood with no fire left in them – just smoke) will not stand (v. 7) in their endeavor.

7:7
Yahweh Elohim promised, **"It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass"**

Kings may plan to conquer and rule, but God overrules!

Nothing can take place outside of His sovereign control.

7:8-9
These kings may be the head of their respective cities and countries, but they will never be the head of Judah, because God would not allow it. (The next head of Judah would be one of the most godly kings ever – King Hezekiah.)

"If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established" – A play on words – "Unsure – insecure." Or No faith – no foundation. Faith drives out fear (the two cannot co-exist).

"Faith is the victory that overcomes the world."

II. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His sovereign PROMISES</u> (7:10-16)

7:11
"Ask thee a sign" - Jews always seek signs. God offers Ahaz the option: High in the sky or low on the earth. God offered him a blank check and all he had to do was fill it in.

Outside of God's sovereign control, nothing planned against us will stand.

7:12
Note the pious pride and arrogance of King Ahaz. God offered him unlimited grace. However, Ahaz was a fake, a phony, a hypocrite with absolutely no heart for God.

Why did he refuse? Because he had already asked the Assyrian King Tiglathpelezar to come and destroy Syria (cp. 2 Ki. 16 & 2 Chron. 28). The reason he did not like God's offer is because there was nothing material or physical for Ahaz to trust.

7:14
In context, the promise of **"Immanuel"** had a historical reference (v. 15-16). However, ultimately the promise of "Immanuel" had a future reference to the Messiah (Matthew 1:23).

(Immediate vs. ultimate fulfillment --- compare: "Out of Egypt have I called my Son" – Historically, Son referred to the nation of Israel coming out of Egypt, but prophetically the "Son" was Jesus Christ who, with Mary and Joseph, would come out of Egypt.) Compare Hos. 11:1 with Matthew 2:15.

"Of course, the *ultimate* fulfillment of this prophecy is in our Lord Jesus Christ, who is "God with us" (Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:31-35). The virgin birth of Christ is a key doctrine; for if Jesus Christ is not God come in sinless human flesh, then we have no Savior. Jesus had to be born of a virgin, apart from human generation, because He existed before His mother. He was not just born *in* this world; He came down from heaven *into* the world (Jn. 3:13; 6:33, 38, 41-42, 50-51, 58). Jesus was *sent by the Father* and therefore came into the world having a human mother but not a human father (4:34; 5:23-24, 30; 9:4).

"However, this "sign" had an *immediate* significance to Ahaz and the people of Judah. A woman who was then a virgin would get married, conceive, and bear a son whose name would be "Immanuel." This son would be a reminder that God was with His people and would care for

them. It is likely that this virgin was Isaiah's second wife, his first wife having died after Shear-jashub was born; and that Isaiah's second son was named both "Immanuel" and "Maher-shalal-hash-baz" (8:1-4; note vv. 8 and 10).

> I think that the possibility exists that the two sons were different. One born to Isaiah thru a woman who was a virgin (after the death of his first wife) (they named him "Immanuel" and the other through that same person 11 – 12 Years later (they named him "Mahershalalhashbaz". (Vincent Sawyer)

"Orthodox Jewish boys become "sons of the Law" at the age of twelve. This special son was a reminder that Syria and Ephraim would be out of the picture within the next twelve years. Isaiah delivered this prophecy in 734 BC. In 732 BC Assyria defeated Syria; and in 722 BC Assyria invaded the Northern Kingdom. The prophecy was fulfilled."

(Wiersbe, p. 33)

Isaiah and his sons (Shear-Jashub and Immanuel, also called Maher-shalal-hash-baz – 8:1-3) were for <u>signs</u> (8:18).

In context, God is saying, "You can stop shaking in the wind (v. 2) because God has great expectations for the house of David (not King Ahaz!)."

Both in the immediate future (with political victory) and in the distant future (a little over seven centuries later), God would bring spiritual victory by sending Immanuel.

7:16

Future blessings had present implications! Future blessings provide present comfort.

God in Isaiah's day was working in the "Now" on the basis that His Son was coming in the future. All Messianic hope had present implications, now!

Isaiah spoke this prophecy in the year 734 BC., and within twelve short years, before the child would grow to full adulthood, the two enemies of Judah would fall.

Isaiah had many Messianic prophecies. The most famous being 9:6-7 and Isaiah 53.

That which God promises, God performs. We can take His promises "to the bank."

God gave a promise to the house of David and He kept that promise.

Simple faith in God's promises brings security to the soul and drives away all fear.

Trust Romans 10:13 for security. God is faithful.

III. If God is with us, we should <u>trust HIM, not men</u> (7:17-8:18)

7:17
Although Rezin of Syria and Pekah of Ephraim would have no success against Ahaz, God would humiliate Judah by Assyria. Impoverished conditions would come to Judah because she trusted in Assyria for deliverance and not God.

The point of Is. 7:17=8:18 is that God would bring the very one Ahaz trusted (Assyria) to do damage to Ahaz.

7:21-25
"The land of Judah would be reduced to poverty and desolation" (Ryrie note)

Assyria would destroy everything in sight.

Isaiah chapter 8 occurred in 732 BC (just twelve years before the Northern Kingdom would be conquered by Assyria)

8:1
Whereas Isaiah's first son's name meant "the remnant shall return," his third son's name meant "Quick pickings, easy prey" – because swift and speedy would be the plunder of the riches of Damascus of Syria and Samaria of Northern Israel **(v. 4)**.

8:6-7
Because Israel had forsaken God's goodness and gentleness depicted by the Shiloah waters, God was not going to bring raging water (Assyria), which would overflow the banks. This overflow would mean that Judah (v. 8) would also be affected by Assyria's conquest of Northern Israel.

IV. If God is with us, we can <u>trust His WORD, not the spiritists or wizards</u> (8:19-22)

8:21-22

The spiritists and the wizards would be destitute and enraged, angered, and they would "curse God and die."

They would "face upward" to curse God and then would "look down to the earth" and find only gloom that consists of anguish. There is no relief and no hope for the wicked.

We must look to God's Word and not the world for answers!

Isaiah 7:14 - Hebrew for "virgin" is "alma" - Never is used of a married woman in the Bible, but only of virgins (Gen. 24:43; Ex. 2:8; Ps. 68:25; Prov. 30:19; Son 1:3, 6:8)

LXX translated "alma" as "panthenos" which exclusively means virgin.

Matthew 1:20-<u>23</u>

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying,
Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of
the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his
people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by
the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his
name <u>Emmanuel</u>, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The reason why Matthew interpreted the name is to <u>add emphasis</u> to <u>Christ's deity</u>.

Whereas the name "Jesus" describes what He came to <u>do</u> (save His people), the name
In Bible days, a name had <u>meaning</u>. It described one's character or nature. It revealed attributes.

So it is with every name applied to Jesus Christ.

He is called Jesus (Mt. 1:21), Christ (Jn. 1:41), Messiah (Jn. 4:25), Lord (Lk. 23:42), the "I AM" (Jn. 8:58, 18:6), the Son of God (Lk. 1:32), the Son of man (Mt. 8:20), the Son of Abraham (Mt. 1:1), Son of David (Mk. 10:47), the Son of the Highest (Lk. 1:32), the last Adam (I Cor. 15:45), the Word (Jn. 1:1, 14), Savior (Lk. 2:11), Rabbi (Jn. 1:38), Master (Mt. 9:11), Alpha & Omega (Rev. 1:17), King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16), Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11), the Way, truth, life (Jn. 14:6), Bread of life (Jn. 6), the living water (Jn. 4), the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10), the Light of the World (Jn. 8), the Door (Jn. 10:9), the Branch and the Vine (Jn. 15), the Cornerstone (Mt. 21:42), the Messenger (Mt. 21:37), the Morning Star (II Pet. 1:19), the Prophet (Jn. 4:19), the Rock of Offense (I Cor. 1:23), the only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16), the Lord of Glory (Ja. 2:1), the Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14), the Redeemer (Eph. 1:7), Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6).

There are over 200 names and titles applied to Christ in the bible, but no name is as miraculous, no name is as awe-inspiring as the name "Immanuel." For this name means "God with us" and points to the miracle of miracles - the virgin birth - the incarnation of deity!

Immanuel" - from the Hebrew (Is. 7:14)
"Im" = with (together with)
"(Ma)nu = us
"El" = God
Hence, "With us (is) God"!

Application:

Romans 8:31
What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

"What shall we then say" = what should be our response? ANSWER: Security.

"These things" - the comforting facts concerning the Spirit's prayers (v. 26-27), and the Father's plan (v. 28-30) for His children.

Paul answers a question with a question (actually 6 questions - v. 31b-35).

"If God be for us" = on our behalf.

In the conflicts of life (v. 17-18), God is on our side. God is working everything out in our favor.

"Who can be against us?" [cp. suffering in previous context (v. 17, 18, 26, 28)]. The obvious answer is No one!

"God and I make a majority!"

If God loves me enough to intercede for me (v. 26-27), work all things out for my ultimate good (v. 28); if God predestined me, invited (called me), justified me, and considers me already glorified (v. 30), then who could oppose me and win? No one!

Because God is with his people, there is . . .

No need to fear other PEOPLE

Ps 56:4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

Ps 118:6 The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

Heb 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Isa 10:24 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD of hosts, O my people that dwellest in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian: he shall smite thee with a rod, and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of Egypt.

Isa 37:6 And Isaiah said unto them, Thus shall ye say unto your master, Thus saith the LORD, Be not afraid of the words that thou hast heard, wherewith the servants of the king of Assyria have blasphemed me.

Isa 40:9 O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Isa 7:4 And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.

Isa 35:4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Isa 41:13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Isa 41:14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Isa 43:1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

Isa 43:5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

Isa 44:2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isa 54:4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

No need to fear the LOSS of Material Things

Hebrews 13:5 -6 - *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

"Conversation" - way of life; character and conduct; lifestyle.

"Coveteousness" = lit. without an affection for money; no love for money (cp. I Tim. 6:6-10, 17)

"Content" - satisfied; view what you have as enough (food and clothing are all you <u>need</u>!) (I Tim. 6:8)

A greed for money reveals <u>insecurity</u> in a person's life; people treasure wealth because it offers them a false sense of comfort and security for their future.

However, our trust ought to be in God; in the Giver rather than the gifts; in the Supplier rather than the supply; in the Provider rather than the provision!

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" - A clause often taken out of context; its specific application is to provide a substantial reason why we can be content and free from a love for money.

The reason we don't need to worry about money is because the Provider is never going to leave us! Our security is in Him! He is not a Savior who is "here today and gone tomorrow"! He will never abandon or desert us!

Dt. 31:6 - *"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee nor forsake thee."*

Psalm 37:28 - *For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off."*

Psalm 118:6 - *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"*

"The Lord is my <u>helper</u>" - One who comes to the rescue in time of need.
Saying "the Lord is my helper" is to say:

--the Lord is my <u>provider</u>
--the Lord is my <u>guide</u>
--the Lord is my <u>protector</u>
--the Lord is my <u>preserver</u>
--the Lord is my <u>job security</u>
--the Lord is my <u>mortgage payer</u>

--the Lord is my bank account
etc.

"I will not fear" - Faith in His abiding presence (v. 5) expels all fear (v. 6)

No need to fear DEATH

Rev. 1:17-18
And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Christ is sovereign in the area of physical death.

"keys" denote: ownership, authority, control.
Christ has the right to say who goes where. He is in control. He controls when you will die.
No one dies without God's permission (ex. Job - Satan was allowed to test, but not kill) (ex. in Rev.9 men are tormented for 5 months but death flees from them.)
"key" symbolizes undisputable authority **see Rev.3:7**.

Believers should not fear death or Hell.
(This is the comfort John received by the statement)

Death had its gates (Ps 9:13, 107:18; Is.38:10) But Christ has the keys to the gates.

Ill. of an emperor's limitation. The Emperor Theodosius having on a great occasion opened all the prisons and released his prisoners, is reported to have said: "and now would to God I could open all the tombs and give life to the dead"

Only Christ has authority over death! God said to Job: "Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Job 38:17.

Friend, if your salvation does not take from your heart the fear of death, then I advise you to make sure you have genuine salvation.

No need to fear CONDEMNATION

Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
Ro 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
1Th 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

"The fear in view here clearly springs from a consciousness that punishment is deserved" (Hiebert, p. 218).

But praise God, our punishment has been paid by the love of God (which is the motive for His grace and mercy Eph. 2:4-5 - ¶ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

"Fear hath torment" - fear involves punishment. When we know God's love for us, we will feel secure in our salvation and will not fear the future judgment.

Hell is not our lot, because God's love which sent His Son to die in our place is the reality which we put our trust in.

Those who are fully aware of God's love for them (as evidenced by Calvary) need not fear Judgment.

Those who fear God's wrath have not come to fully trust God's love.

Many are spiritually insecure Christians due to the fact that they have been tempted to doubt God's love for others.

ILLUS: When a child trusts his parent to protect him, he can sleep without fear, knowing that his dad or mom loves him and therefore will keep him safe from harm.

Where there is faith there is no fear (faith is the opposite of fear, and faith drives all fear away).

No need to fear TRAGEDY, TRIALS, & TRIBULATIONS

(God is in sovereign control)

Philippians 4:6-7

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Rely on the Lord prayerfully (v. 6)

Worrying can cause: "headaches, neck pains, ulcers, even back pains. Worry affects our thinking, our digestion, and even coordination." (Wiersbe, p. 113). It also causes insomnia. Trusting God beats taking sleeping pills.

God has a cure for worry (anxiety). And it is <u>not</u> prescription drugs, nor is it seeing a psychiatrist, nor checking into Bellevue Hospital!

It is faith, trust, <u>reliance</u> upon the Great Physician -- Christ!
Most of what we worry about never comes to pass.

"Take no thought for tomorrow . . ."

Do what you can about the problem and leave the rest with God!

"In everything" = prayer is not just for emergencies. It is for small problems before they grow into big ones.

1) "Prayer" = a worshipful asking
2) "Supplication" = an earnest asking
3) "Thanksgiving" = an appreciation for what God has done and will do (this involves faith). Anyone appreciates a "Thank you" (cp. Lk. 17:11-19 - the 10 Lepers)
4) "Requests" = specific praying. Not just "God bless the missionaries."

Why do we worry (fear and become discouraged)?
Answer: Because we don't know how we will handle the problem at hand. You are taking
upon yourself something God never intended! You are trying to deal with the problem by your own strength!

You must give it to God!

Hymn: "All your anxieties, all your care, bring to the mercy seat, leave it there.
Never a burden He cannot bear, Never a friend like Jesus."

"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Ps. 56:3).

"Nothing is too great for God's power; nothing is too small for His fatherly care" (Vincent, p. 134).

He who worries does not pray, and he who prays does not worry" (Blair, p. 108).

God's Reward (v. 7) - He will guard your heart and mind with incredible peace

Man's "peace treaties" (peace agreements) are often broken.

Martin Luther King and Henry Kissinger received the Nobel Peace prize. But can equal rights fighters or diplomats bring lasting peace? No! Only the Prince of peace can!

This is not speaking of peace with God (justification) (Rom. 8:1) but the peace of God which comes after salvation.

Inner rest can only comes to you when you are absolutely sure that you are trusting in one who is trustworthy.

ILLUS: Contrast the differences of peace between stockholders and those who invest their $ in a bank.

God's peace protects us. With inner protection.

His peace stands like military guards at the door of the believer's heart and mind to keep out invaders who would seek to make your life miserable.

ILLUS: Daniel's peace while in the lion's den(Dan. 6)

A "peace that passeth understanding" - we sing about it, talk about it, preach about it, but never seem to experience it. Why? We neglect the Lord.

We do not empty out our dump truck of anxieties on the Lord!

Jn. 16:33 - "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 3:14
But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

1 Peter 5:7
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.