

Text: Isaiah 7:10-17

Theme: Here's your sign!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our mediation today is the Old Testament Lesson of Isaiah chapter seven verses ten through seventeen.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well as we get nearer and nearer to the celebration of Christmas. Have you ever heard of the name Jeff Foxworthy? I am guessing that you have not. He is a comedian. He enjoys making people laugh. One of the ways that he does this is through given people a sign. He says things like, "A couple of months ago I went fishing with a buddy of mine. We pulled his boat into the dock. I lifted up this big 'ol stringer of bass this idiot on the dock goes "Hey, y'all catch all them fish?" Nope "Talked 'em into giving up." "Here's your sign."

Or

"It's like before my wife and I moved from Texas to California our house was full of boxes and there was a you-haul truck in our driveway My friend comes over and says, "Hey, You moving?" "Nope." "We just pack our stuff up once or twice a week. Just to see how many boxes it takes. Here's your sign." In our text for today, we hear of a sign given by the Lord to Ahaz. It is one of the most famous signs ever of a virgin having a

child. Yet, what type of sign is it for Ahaz and what type of sign is it for us today? Ponder those questions as you hear the rest of the sermon. You may go back to your seats and those who love you.

Our text begins with Isaiah coming to king Ahaz as he is inspecting the waterways of Jerusalem in preparation for war from the Kings of Assyria and Syria. Isaiah says in order to strengthen the faith of Ahaz, ask for whatever you want from the Lord. Isaiah gives Ahaz a blank check for the Lord to sign. Ask for anything that will assure Ahaz that God will fulfil His promise of saving Jerusalem¹ Yet, Ahaz, in seeming piety, says, “I will not ask.” By this statement, Ahaz has shown his rejection of the Lord and His prophet. Clearly, Ahaz had no regard for the Lord, for his prophet, or for the promises of protection made here on the road to the Washerman’s Field. What makes the response of Ahaz so vile is that he pretended to be God-fearing. When God offered such a sign, it was an insult to refuse. Worse than an insult, it was arrogant for this king of Judah to tell the Lord that he did not need or want God’s promises. This king who here refused the Lord’s sign instead sought help from Assyria. The rejection by Ahaz was symptomatic of the unbelief throughout the kingdom of Judah. That unbelief, like all unbelief, could have only one outcome—the judgment of the

¹ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 437). Logos Research Systems, Inc.

Lord.² That is why Isaiah says, “The Lord is going to provide a sign anyways, here is your sign whether you want it or not.”

What is our sign? How often have we acted like Ahaz in not following the things that God commands. God invites and commands us to pray yet we say, “No I cannot bore God with that small matter, I can handle it on my own. I got this God” We reject God’s good and gracious invitation and fall into sin by rejecting the gracious invitation He gives to us. We then fall into more actual sins and fall deeper under the judgement of God. What’s our sign? Sinner in thought, word, and deed.

Thus why Isaiah gives the sign that he does. What is that sign? The virgin will conceive and bear a son and name him Immanuel, God with us. For Ahaz this is a sign of judgement. God will be with His people and redeem them but not through a proud and powerful king but through a lowly virgin. When this child is born, the power and prestige of the house of David will be no more. The kings that Ahaz’ fears so badly will be completely destroyed in only a few years’ time.

Thanks be to God that Isaiah sees a sign not only of judgement for Ahaz but also redemption for His people and their salvation from their sins of rebellion. The church has always treasured this sign because of its future fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Matthew makes it especially clear in his Gospel that this sign of Isaiah finds its fulfillment when the Virgin Mary becomes pregnant with our Lord in order to save us from our sins. That Jesus, this child, is God himself with us. God becomes

² Braun, J. A. (2000). [Isaiah 1-39](#) (pp. 102–103). Northwestern Pub. House.

flesh and blood and enters human history. So Isaiah sees it. This child is the God-man, “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary” (Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed). What a miraculous sign! The one who came to be with us—Jesus—also promised to be with us even after he ascended: “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20).³ Jesus is Immanuel God with us by His very nature of becoming man for us. As we sing in *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, “Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.” He does outstretch His arm upon the wood of the cross to save you and me from sin, death, and the power of the devil. By His suffering, bleeding, and dying upon the cross, He does what only God can do, bearing all of our sins in His holy Flesh, to restore all of sinful humanity with God once again, now and forever.

Here’s your sign. For Ahaz a sign of judgement and condemnation of the house of David. For you, a sign of mercy and grace. Through Immanuel God with us, Your sign of Sinner is changed to Saint. Here is the sign, God with you in the flesh. Christ and Him Crucified, defeating not just kings and earthly powers but all of your enemies completely and totally that you may have peace with God forever by His wondrous work, until that day when we see Jesus, our Immanuel in power and glory forever and ever.

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

³ Braun, J. A. (2000). [Isaiah 1-39](#) (p. 105). Northwestern Pub. House.