THE PERIL IN JUDAH

Part One

**DATE: 1/4/2017 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 7:1-4**

**INTRODUCTION**

How would you feel if you received news that 49 states in the U.S. were launching an attack against the state of New York?

These states had made an Alliance with Foreign Enemy to invade our state, conquer it, and divide the spoils among themselves

Would you be a little scared?

I think most of us would be very concerned and frightened

We would feel a sense of betrayal from the rest of America turning its back on fellow Americans

This is basically what happens in the 7th chapter of Isaiah

The northern ten tribes of Israel made an alliance with Syria to invade the tribe of Judah and conquer it

Upon hearing this news, the people of Judah were gripped with so much fear they became like shaken trees – **v. 2** end

The Tribe of Judah was in Peril

**Peril** – means *to be in danger of harm, the fear of harm*

God, however, had a message for these folks that would help them to conquer their Fears if they would heed what He said

So what does this have to do with you and I?

How is this chapter relevant to our lives?

As we look through this chapter, we will be addressing several vital issues that affect our lives repeatedly

We are going to deal with the issues of ***fear***, ***faith***, our ***fellowship*** with friends, our ***failure*** of obedience and trust in the Lord, and the ***fulfillment*** of Bible prophecies

There are many lessons to learn from this portion of Isaiah if we will take the time to dig them out and heed them

Mistakes that others made in the past; can help us in the present

So I’d like to begin looking at …

**“The Peril in Judah” (Part One)**

Let’s stand to read **vs. 1-4**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First we find …

**I. AN UNHEALTHY “ALLIANCE” - v. 1**

***“And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of …***

***… Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it”***

An **Alliance** *is**an association of groups with a common aim*

We see a lot of names here; let’s try to sort them out

King Ahaz is reigning in Judah

Ahaz had a great family heritage

His Father Jotham, was a mighty king

In fact, Jotham's name means *Jehovah is perfect*

This was the attitude of his parents when they named him

**II Chronicles 27:6 –** ***“So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the LORD his God”***

The mother of Ahaz was Jerushah, the daughter of Zadok a High Priest of Israel

Ahaz's other grandfather was King Uzziah, who (as we learned) was a very influential king in Judah

His name means *My strength is Jehovah*

On whole, Uzziah was a good king until the end of his life

When he was disciplined by the Lord for offering incense in the Jewish temple

Ahaz was 20 when he began to reign, but unfortunately, he did not do that which was right in the sight of the Lord

**II Kings 16:2 *– “Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem, and did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father”***

He sacrificed to the idol Baalim, and he burned his children alive in the valley of Hinnom in honor of the pagan god Moloch

**II Kings 16:3 –** ***“But he (Ahaz) walked in the way of the kings of Israel, (Which was Not good) yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel”***

It’s very possible that Uzziah's decision to not remove the sites of pagan worship in the high places of the land influenced his own grandson, Ahaz

**II Kings 15:3, 4 –** ***“And Uzziah did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done;” “Save that (except) the high places were not removed: the people sacrificed and burnt incense still on the high places”***

Ahaz had a heart of rebellion toward God

He knew what was Right, but rejected the Truth

He was so wicked that he became an idolater and erected images, pagan altars, and groves of idolatry everywhere in the land

\**Parents and grandparents need to realize that what they allow in moderation, their children and grandchildren will take to excess*

That is what happened to Ahaz

His sinfulness led to God's chastening

We are told that two kings made an Alliance against King Ahaz after Ahaz would not be pressured to join their Alliance

One king was Pekah, the king of the ten northern tribes of Israel

How sad that these people set out to destroy their own people

(kinda of what’s going on in America today)

King Pekah made an evil Alliance with the last king of Syria, King Rezin

… For the purpose of destroying the Lord's people in Judah and robbing the land of its treasures

King Ahaz would not submit to the Alliance and he was attacked by these two kings

They did not prevail, but they did do great damage

The Bible says they ***“went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it”***

**II Chronicles 28:6, 8 –** ***“For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers” “And the children of Israel carried away captive of their brethren two hundred thousand, women, sons, and daughters, and took also away much spoil from them, and brought the spoil to Samaria”***

King Pekah slaughtered 120,000 valiant men in one day

Then took 200,000 of the brethren into captivity

The Alliance failed but it was damaging and destructive to the Jewish people

This same type of Alliance exists today in order to Divide and Destroy God's people

You ask … *What do you mean?*

The Elements of this Alliance are found in the meaning of the names of the Kings which illustrate certain destructive character traits

When a person has embraced or made an Alliance with these traits in their life, or if they hangs around and follows people that have these traits, then they enters a path that will lead to spiritual defeat

Let’s look at the Traits in the Names

**A. Pekah**

Means *to be opened*

It is the same word used in **Genesis 3:5**

***“For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil”***

When Adam and Eve were told that they would have their eyes opened if they ate the forbidden fruit

That is exactly what happened

The curiosity for the forbidden and the desire to be as gods caused mankind to become aware of wickedness

The result was the human race was judged with death because of Adam's disobedience

**Romans 5:12 –** ***“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”***

Satan will use the Loss of Innocence and the Knowledge of Wickedness to destroy God's people

Curiosity for sin and experimenting with wickedness leads to ruin

Many lives have been scarred by sin when people have indulged in immorality, (porn) drunkenness, any illegal, mind-altering drugs such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and meth

When it comes to sin, God does not want us to learn it

We are to remain ***“simple”*** concerning evil

**Romans 16:19 *– “For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil”***

We are not to dabble in it (sowing wild oats)

King Pekah made an Alliance with King Rezin of Syria

**B. Rezin**

This name is from the Hebrew root word which means *pleasure, desire, self-will*

Rezin reminds us of the lust or desire for sinful pleasures, selfishness, and stubbornness

(once you got a taste of it)

**Psalm 81:11, 12 –** ***“But My people would not hearken to My voice; and Israel would none of Me”***

Notice that this Psalm doesn’t say that God’s people did not listen; it says that they WOULD NOT

God isn’t as concern about the Action as He is the Attitude

***“So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels”***

Self-will has proved throughout the centuries never to work

When men have this attitude, God stops interfering

**1.** Self-will is the perverted use of free will

Man is a free moral agent, with the intent that he would freely choice God

But in his fallen state he is in rebellion against God

**2.** Man needs to be Delivered from their Self-will

Salvation is the only means that men can be delivered from themselves

Being Born Again by Faith in the Finished work of Christ

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

**3.** We are always in danger of falling back into self-will

We need to walk circumspectly, always depending on the Holy Spirit for guidance

**Ephesians 5:15-17 –** ***“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,” “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”***

**C. Syria**

Means *exalted*

This word is a reminder of our Pride

Satan will use the Alliance of the curiosity for sin, the lust or desire for sinful pleasures, selfishness, self-will, and our Pride to destroy our lives

The combination of these attitudes wreak havoc

Just as the ten tribes betrayed Judah, we deceive and betray our own selves when we live in sin

We think our sin won't hurt us, but it does

We betray ourselves by deceiving ourselves about wickedness

**Romans 7:11 –** ***“For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me”***

**Hebrews 3:13 *– “But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”***

This Alliance against Judah did not prevail in the attack against Jerusalem

But let me add right here that this Alliance would eventually lead to the destruction of both Syria and Israel, as we will see later in these messages

Your Alliances or friendships have an impact and greatly influence you

This is why the Bible commands us to not be yoked with unbelievers

**Psalm 1:1 …**

Christians are not to date, marry, or go into business with unsaved people

**II Corinthians 6:14 – *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”***

**UNHEALTHY “ALLIANCES”**

Next, let’s look at …

**II. THE KINGS “ALARM AND ANXIETY” - v. 2**

***“And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind”***

The royal house was informed of the Alliance

The hearts of the king and the people were moved

This word ***“moved”*** is an intense word

It is from a Hebrew word which means *to quiver, to stagger, shake, tremble, or totter*

These folks were terrified / Shaking in their boots

In fact, this word is in (what is called) the imperfect tense

Which means they continually shook and were fearful

The Bible says that they were shaken like trees in the wind

Have you ever been that scared?

Fear can be debilitating / I think of phobias

Fear is something we have to deal with all the time because we Fear so many different things

**A. Some Common Fears**

Some folks …

**1.** Fear What People Think and Say

They are slaves to the opinions of others

**Proverbs 29:25 - *“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe”***

People fear confrontation, the objections and opinions of opposition, the condemnation of the crowd, the rejections of the rowdy, the derision and misrepresentations of people we face day by day

Some folks will not trust Christ as their Saviour because of their Fear of others

**Ill.** The girl who would not get saved because of her father’s atheism

**Revelation 21:8 - *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which …***

***… burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”***

**2.** The Fear of Failure(This is a big one, especially among young people)

Some Folks have a Fear of Failure

Therefore they never try to serve the Lord, because they feel they are not worthy or good enough

(You know, you’re right, you’re not!)

They are shackled by either Past Failures or Fear of Future Failure

The Fear of embarrassment

The Fear of Failure reveals the importance we are placing on people's opinion of us

We don't want to look bad

This kind of Fear is a Prideful thing

Because we think we are too good to look bad

That kind of thinking has got to go, if you are going to be what God wants you to be, and do what He wants you to do

Stop worrying about what everyone else is thinking!

We need to do what the Lord leads us to do and understand that …

He will not lead you to do anything that contradicts His Word (He won’t set you up for failure)

Realize the Lord is with you and will equip you to serve Him

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

**Isaiah 41:10 – *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness”***

**3.** The Fear of God’s Will

Another Fear that people entertain is the Fear of God's will

They are afraid of what God may ask of them or lead them to do

God wants us to delight, not dread serving and living for Him

Don't dread His will for your life

**Psalm 40:8 – *“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy Law is within my heart”***

**Ephesians 5:17 – *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”***

**4.** The Fear of Trusting and Obeying

Not only do people Fear God’s Will, but also Fear having to Trust and Obey God as well

Some may ask …

-- *“Will God's way work?”*

-- *“Is His Word Genuinely true?”*

-- *“Can the Lord solve my problems?”*

-- *“Where will He take me?”*

Thankfully His Word provides the answers to these questions

**Proverbs 3:5, 6 – *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”***

**I Peter 5:7 – *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

Don't Fear tomorrow; God is already there

**5.** The Fear of Death

People are afraid of dying

**Ill.** An issue of *The New Scientist* stated that during the January 17th, 1994 Northridge/Los Angeles earthquake, over 100 people literally died of fright, according to Robert Kloner, cardiologist at the Good Samaritan Hospital in L.A. His research has shown that excessive fear can cause sudden cardiac death. In many cases the terrorized brain triggers the release of a mix of …

… chemicals so potent it causes the heart to contract so fiercely it never relaxes again. In a Cleveland study, coroners studied the hearts of 15 assault victims who died even though their assailants had not wounded them badly enough to fatally injure their internal organs. Charles Hirsch, chief medical officer, determined that 11 of the 15 had torn fibers and lesions in their hearts most likely caused by mortal fear.

King Ahaz and his people Feared being killed by the Syrian army and the tribes of Israel

They were so terrified, that they shook like trees in the wind!

We can get that way, too (If we’re not careful)

We can, however, cope with these Fears if we will just put our lives into the hands of the Lord and trust in Him

**Psalm 23:4 – *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me”***

You may struggle with Fear in your life …

But let’s Realize that God's Word provides for us some principles to help us conquer Fear

So let’s look at …

**B. How to Conquer Our Fears**

**1.** Sound Wisdom should be Applied to our Life

**Proverbs 3:21-24 –** ***“My son, let not them (God’s Word) depart from thine eyes: keep sound …***

***…wisdom and discretion:” “So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck” “Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble” “When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet”***

-- A wise man learns from the experience of others

-- An ordinary man learns from his own experiences

-- A fool learns from nobody's experiences

Because he doesn't want to learn or doesn’t feel the need to learn

He then makes decisions that leave him in Fear

Wisdom is what helps us to avoid making decisions that will lead to fearful circumstances and the consequences of foolish behavior

**2.** Submit to the Lord

**Proverbs 1:33 –** ***“But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil”***

If you want to be ***“quiet”*** from Fear, do what God says

Hearken unto the Lord and obey Him

The word ***“quiet”*** is derived from a word which means *to be at ease, peace, and rest*

It is in the perfect tense which indicates the certainty of the promise

God gives peace to those who submit to Him

**Psalm 119:165 – *“Great peace have they which love Thy Law: (His Word) and nothing shall offend them”***

This verse hits the nail on the head

It’s Satan's lie, that if we do what God says …

He will ask us to do things that will be frightening, dangerous, difficult, or uncomfortable

On the contrary, it is when we disobey the Lord that Fear is a consequence of our rebellion

Our strong wills make it difficult for us to do what God commands us to do,

But it’s in our surrender to the Lord that we find our victory

**3.** Practicing Saintly Living

**Proverbs 28:1 – *“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion”***

Godliness gives Boldness and Confidence

Wickedness creates Fear

When Christians live godly lives, …

… They won’t taint their minds and hearts with Guilt and the Regret that is linked with sinful living

They are at peace with God, which flushes Fear from their hearts

**II Timothy 1:7 – *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”***

**4.** Confidence in God will help to Dispel Fear

Again **Proverbs 29:25 *– “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe”***

Faith in God gives God time to work in your life

Those who put their ***“trust in the Lord shall be safe”***

The word *“****safe”*** means *to be set on high*

The idea here of being *safe* or *set on high* is a military term meaning a defensible position …

A place of safety and security, such as a high wall or a mountain, an advantage point (Gettysburg)

Trusting in the Lord sets people free and gives them a sense of safety and security

**Ephesians 2:6 –** ***“And (God) hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”***

What better advantage point can you have then that?

**5.** Preparation for Future Circumstances

**Proverbs 22:3 – *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”***

**Proverbs 16:1 *– “The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD”***

The lack of being prepared will send our stress and fear levels through the roof

The reason many students Fear exams in school is because they have not prepared by studying

People have a traumatic Fear of death because they are not prepared to die

They do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour

The virtuous woman was not afraid of the snow for her family because she had Prepared for the bad weather

**Proverbs 31:21 *– “She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet”***

Her family being ***“clothed with scarlet”*** speaks of warm clothing

Christians are to be Prepared people

Relying upon the Lord will help you to Prepare for just about any emotional circumstance you may face in life

The reason King Ahaz was so terrified is because he was relying upon the wrong person to protect him and keep him secure

His reliance was upon a man and his army, instead of God

Here is what Ahaz did

He secretly made an alliance with the king of Assyria

**II Kings 16:5, 7-9 – *“Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him” “So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me” “And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria” “And the king of Assyria hearkened unto him: for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus, and took it, and carried the people of it captive to Kir, and slew Rezin”***

King Tiglath-Pileser seized the Assyrian throne during a civil war and killed the royal family in the process

Under his leadership, …

… his army became the world's first professional standing army

He is considered to be one of the most successful military commanders in world history,

Conquering most of the then known world

This is the man that Syria and Israel Feared

Ahaz sought the protection of Assyria against Syria and Israel

That decision would later prove to be a fatal mistake

We can take a lot out of the Fear of Life & death if we’ll just prepare ourselves for eternity by trusting Jesus Christ as Saviour

If you will trust the Lord for eternal life, He will give it to you freely

He promises this to anyone who will put his or her Trust in Him

**John 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”***

**AN UNHEALTHY “ALLIANCE”**

**THE KING’S “ALARM AND ANXIETY”**

Then lastly, let’s look at …

**III. ISAIAH’S “ASSIGNMENT” – vs. 3, 4**

***“Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shear-jashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller's field;” “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”***

God knew of the alliance with Assyria and was not happy about it

He had a message for King Ahaz of Judah

He wanted Ahaz to place his trust in the Lord

That was Ahaz's major problem

He had no faith in God because he was rebellious and wicked

Delivering a message of Faith to the king was Isaiah's assignment

The Lord told Isaiah in **v. 3** where to find the king

Isaiah was to take his son, Shear-jashub, with him to see the king

Isaiah's boy was to be an object lesson for the king

His name meant *A remnant shall return*

His name was a message of Faith and Hope

Isaiah would find the king at the end of the aqueduct that fed water into the upper pool that was near the road where the Fuller’s field was (a place of clothe washing)

This was part of Jerusalem's water supply

Ahaz may have been there assessing the situation for future battles or sieges against the city

Isaiah's message in **v. 4** from God was 4-fold

It was a message of Hope, Help, Heeding, and of Having Faith in God

First, Isaiah tells Ahaz to be …

**A. Cautious, Circumspect and on his Toes**

He tells him to ***“take heed”***

The phrase *“****take heed”*** means *to be alert and on your guard, be watchful*

It was not time to be goofing off or becoming apathetic

He was a time to watch out for trouble

God has that same message for us today

We are told in the Bible to watch out for a number of things

(There is no specific order here)

First, we are to Watch for …

**1.** The Second Coming of Christ

**Matthew 25:13 –** ***“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh”*** (and …)

**Luke 18:8b *– “…when the Son of man cometh, shall He find Faith (fulness) on the earth?”***

Then, Watch out for …

**2.** The Seduction of Temptation

**Matthew 26:41 –** ***“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”***

Both Demas and Samson are two examples of men who did not take heed to the seductions of temptation (And look where that got them)

Next, Watch out for …

**3.** Smugness & Self-Reliance

**I Corinthians 10:12 – *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”***

Pride, independence, and self-reliance can lead to disaster because a person tends to become independent of God and resistant to His Will, His Ways, and His Word

Next, Watch out for …

**4.** Satanic Attack

**I Peter 5:8 – *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

Realize that Satan is out to destroy you

Be mindful and alert to his attacks that are intended to ruin your life and testimony

Next, Watch …

**5.** Unto Supplication

**Colossians 4:2 – *“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;”***

Praying is hard work and takes time

God wants us to be alert to His leading and alert in petitioning Him

Next, Watch out for …

**6.** Statements made with the Tongue

**Psalm 39:1 – *“I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me”***

Our mouth can devastate people

Think before you speak and put a foot in it

Next, look for ….

**7.** The Stress & Sorrow of Others

**Philippians 2:4 *–“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others”***

At church, work, school, or home, be alert to those around you

Look into their eyes

Be sensitive to those who are hurting and have burdens

If you see a need, try to meet it

Be God's channel of blessing to other people who need a demonstration of the love of Christ

Next, look …

**8.** For Service Opportunities

**Matthew 9:37 *–“Then saith He unto His disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;”***

The opportunities to serve God are now

Tomorrow may be too late because of any number of reasons

And Lastly for …

**9.** Souls to Save

Again **John 4:35 – *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”***

**II Timothy 4:5 *–“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry”***

Now is the time to reach others for Christ

Not only was King Ahaz told to be **Cautious, Circumspect and on his Toes,**

But he was also to be ….

**B. Calm, Collected and Tranquil**

***“be quiet”*** doesn’t mean to *shut up*

The words *“****be quiet”*** mean *to be at peace, to lie still and be at rest, to be calm and tranquil*

Ahaz was not to be consumed with worry

God wanted him to know, he could have Peace

Ahaz could have Peace if he wanted it and if he depended upon the Lord for it

These enemies were just two smoldering lamps or touches which would be soon burned out

***“the two tails of these smoking firebrands”***

God was trying to get King Ahaz to look at his problems from His Divine point of view

*Ahaz, they are but burnt up sticks! They are nothing if you will trust Me!*

Beloved, God is the source of all true Peace

The Lord wants us to have Peace too, and we can have it through His help

He wants us to look at our circumstances from His point of view

We can do that when we stand on His Word and truly trust Him by faith

Many of the Problems that cause us to Fear will only last a short time

But our Fears magnified them and rob us of our Peace

The Bible tells us how to have Peace

**1.** By Coming

Coming to the Lord Gives Peace and Rest

When your security is in the Lord, it can't be taken away or destroyed

God promises to give us rest if we will come to Him for it

**Matthew 11:28, 29 *–“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls”***

**Psalm 29:11 *–“The Lord will give strength unto His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace”***

**Psalm 37:7 *–“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass”***

**2.** By Confidence

Confidence in the Lord, Gives Peace and Rest

**Colossians 1:27 *–“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”***

Is your hope genuinely in the Lord Jesus Christ?

**3.** By Cherishing

Cherishing the Word of God Gives Peace and Rest

**Psalm 119:165 *–“Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them”***

Do you have a love for the Bible?

Are you spending time in it, each day?

If not, Let me challenge you to do so

**4.** By Character

The Character of a Godly Man Gives Peace and Rest

**Proverbs 16:7 *–“When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him”***

Do your ways please the Lord?

**5.** By Concentration

Concentrating the Focus of Your Life upon Christ brings Peace

**Isaiah 26:3 *–“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee”***

***“seek ye first the kingdom of God”***

Do you really trust the Lord with your life or is it all talk and no walk?

God gives a Peace and Rest to those who truly turn their lives over to Him

**6.** By being Consecrated

Clean and Consecrated Living brings Peace and Rest

**Isaiah 32:17 *–“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; …***

***… and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever”***

**Psalm 37:37 *–“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace”***

King Ahaz was told to be **Cautious, Circumspect and on his Toes**

He was also to be **Calm, Collected, and Tranquil**

And Thirdly, God wanted him to be …

**C. Courageous and Not Terrified**

Isaiah tells the King to ***“fear not”***

The words *“****fear not”*** means *do not be afraid, fearful, or terrified*

Panic can cause a person to make rash decisions that lead to defeat or further difficulties

Fear can paralyze you into indecision which leads to defeat

**Ill.** For example, Black Bart was a professional thief whose very name struck fear as he terrorized the Wells Fargo stage line. From San Francisco to New York, his name became synonymous with the danger of the frontier. Between 1875 and 1883, he robbed 29 different stagecoach crews. Amazingly, Bart did it all without firing a shot. Because a hood hid his face, none of his victims ever saw him. He never took a hostage and was never trailed by a sheriff. Instead, Black Bart used fear to paralyze his victims. His sinister presence was enough to overwhelm the toughest stagecoach guard.

That same kind of fear is what overwhelms Christians from sharing the Gospel or preaching the truths of Scripture

God does not want us to be gripped by fear, beloved, but to have courage in the face of problems

Repeatedly, we are urged throughout the Bible to have courage

**Jeremiah 1:8 *– “Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD”***

**Psalm 31:24 – *“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord”***

**Joshua 23:6 *–“Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the Law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left;”***

Lastly he tells him, don’t be …

**D. Cowardly, Cowering, and Timid**

God told the king to ***“neither be fainthearted”***

This word means don't *be intimidated, weak of heart, timid or soft*

God wanted the king to be confident and bold in the face of his enemies

And not intimidated by their threats and attacks

God told him that these two kings were nothing but burned out torches

They were just a bunch of smoke / all smoke no fire

Confidence comes from the Lord, but that was part of King Ahaz's problem

He was Not relying on the Lord, but on a man

He placed his confidence in the king of Assyria and pagan gods

Ahaz was a man who walked by sight and not by faith

He believed only what he could see

Yet, God was still reaching out to this man to give him a chance to turn his life around for good

That is the Grace of God

Many folks walk by sight today and that is why they are so fearful

They believe only what they can see or what can be proved to them

Face it, what we see each day can scare us to death

Faith in the Lord, however, is what gives us hope and confidence to face our trials

Faith in God enables us to tap into God's strength

Beloved, don't be intimidated into silence by this wicked world

If you live for Christ, there will be some that will oppose you

You can count on it, but there will also be many who will be encouraged by your example and challenged to follow the Lord

Relying on the Lord and living a godly life will give you the confidence and boldness you need to face life each day

God can take care of you

**Psalm 27:1, 2 *–“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” “When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell”***

**CONCLUSION**

There was Peril in Judah, there is Peril in America

We respond in fear because there are times we doubt the Lord's ability to care for us

**Ill.** At times we are all, too often, like the little boy whose mother asked him to go into the pantry and get her a can of tomato soup. The little boy didn't want to go into the pantry alone, and he said, "Mommy, it's dark in there, and I'm scared." "It's all right, Johnny," she said, "You go in there and get a can of tomato soup. I need it dinner" He said, "But Mommy, it's dark, and I'm too scared to go in there by myself." "It's okay, Johnny," she said again.

"Jesus will be in there with you. Now you go and get that can of soup." Johnny went to the door and opened it slowly. When he peeked inside, it was dark, and he was scared. His hands began to tremble, but he got an idea. He said, Jesus, if you're in there, would you hand me that can of tomato soup."

At times, we may be just like this little boy, wondering if the Lord is really there

Friend, let me assure you, He Is!

**AN UNHEALTHY “ALLIANCE”**

**THE KING’S “ALARM AND ANXIETY”**

**ISAIAH’S “ASSIGNMENT”**

Next time we will continue to look into **Isaiah 7** and the **Peril of Judah – Pt. 2**