THE PERIL IN JUDAH

Part Three

**DATE: 2/1/2017 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 7:10-25**

**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 began to shake like trees blown by the wind – **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 have looked at this chapter, we have been addressing several vital issues that affect our lives repeatedly

We have dealt with issues like ***fear***, ***faith***, and ***failure***

Tonight we will look at the ***fulfillment*** of Bible prophecy

There are so 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 today

So let’s pick up where we last left off in **v. 10**

**“The Peril in Judah” (Part Three)**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE LORD’S “APPROACH” – vs. 10, 11**

***“Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying,” “Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above”***

Isaiah continues to speak to King Ahazfor the LORD

The LORD continues (***“again”***) to try and get Ahaz’s attention, by telling him that he could ask a sign of Him

In it, He would show Ahaz, that His promise for deliverance was true and reliable

God basically tells him – *“Ask for a sign, no matter what it is, and I will prove Myself to you”*

**I Corinthians 1:22 –** ***“For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:”***

The religious leaders in Jesus’ day looked for signs

But Jesus refused to give them anything new

**Matthew 12:38, 39 –** ***“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from Thee” “But He answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:”***

People refuse to believe God today unless they see something

But God’s Way, has always been the Way of Faith

**Hebrews 11:6 –** ***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

God was giving this idolatrous king an opportunity to turn his life around and turn back to the Lord

God offered to do something very special for him by granting him the privilege to ask for some kind of sign that He would take care of King Ahaz and Judah

Ahaz was a man that walked by sight so the Lord offered to meet the king on the *Level he was at*

This verse reminds us again of God's mercy and desire to deliver us

He wanted to deliver Ahaz and He wants to deliver us too,

If the Lord is reaching out to you, don't push Him away

Rather let Him Lift you up and Lead you

Ahaz was either weak in faith or had none at all!

**THE LORD’S “APPROACH”**

**II. THE KING’S “AVOIDANCE” – v. 12**

***“But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD”***

Notice that King Ahaz gave a pseudo-pious answer to God's offer

He said he didn’t want to ask the Lord for a sign of deliverance because he didn't want to tempt or test the Lord

But that wasn’t it at all!

He didn’t want to be bothered

The request for a sign, however, would not be tempting the Lord because God was extending the invitation to him

The Real Problem with King Ahaz was the fact that he did not want to put his trust in God in the first place

His trust was in the King of Assyria

People today make the same mistake when they reject God's promise of salvation and the wonderful promises in His Word

They would rather trust in something else or be content in their unbelief

**THE LORD’S “APPROACH”**

**THE KING’S “AVOIDANCE”**

**III. THE MESSIAH’S “ARRIVAL” – vs. 13-16**

***“And he (Isaiah) said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?” “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel” “Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good” “For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings”***

Isaiah rebukes the King for his apathy

The King thought nothing of exhausting human patience

Isaiah asked - *Must you exhaust God's patience as well?*

Ahaz would not request a sign, so the Lord told him He was going to give him one anyway

Notice in **v. 13** that when Isaiah speaks to the King,

He refers to him as the ***“house of David”***

The reason is because God is extending this sign to all the royal family of David (not just this one King)

**A. The ‘Uniqueness’**

**1.** The Davidic Covenant **– v. 13**

The Davidic Covenant refers to God’s promises to David through Nathan the prophet and is found in **II Samuel 7** and later summarized in **I Chronicles 17:11-14** and **II Chronicles 6:16**

***“Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which Thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in My sight to sit upon the throne of Israel; yet so that thy children take heed to their way to walk in My law, as thou hast walked before Me”***

This is an unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah, and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever

The Davidic Covenant is unconditional because God does not place any conditions of obedience upon it

The surety of the promises made, rests solely on God’s faithfulness and does not depend at all on David or Israel’s obedience

**2.** The Sign – **v. 14-16**

And as with many of the prophecies given by God, they have two Fulfillments – Immediate / Future

This sign would have an *immediate fulfillment* for the benefit of King Ahaz and Judah,

But it would also have *future fulfillment* in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we will see in a moment

This condition of Partial Fulfillment exists in some of the prophecies of the Bible and is not considered to be unusual

-- The Immediate Fulfillment

The part of the prophecy that would be immediate are found in **vs. 15, 16**

Because of bad economic conditions from the land becoming a wasteland, the child would grow up on butter and honey

Butter & Honey representing the barest minimum

It would be a difficult time for Judah, …

…but this boy would be a reminder that God had not forsaken His people

Before this child would know enough to choose between right and wrong, the lands of the two kings that Ahaz feared (Rezin & Pekah) would become forsaken and abandoned

Within two years, these two kings were dead just as Isaiah prophesied

-- The Future Fulfillment

The Future Sign that God would be with His people, and would watch over them would be the birth of a child who was conceived by a virgin woman that got married

The fulfillment of this part of the prophecy would come 700 years later

In fact, both Moses and Isaiah prophesied about the Virgin Birth of Christ

The very first prophesy of the birth of Christ is found in the book of Genesis written by Moses

**Genesis 3:15 – *“And I will put enmity between thee (devil) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel”***

This verse is known as the *Proto-Evangel* or *First Gospel*

It is the first prophecy of Christ and deals with the future death blow to Satan (his head)

… Which began at the Cross of Calvary and will finish when Jesus casts him into the Lake of Fire

On the cross, Satan caused Christ to suffer greatly, bruising His heel (But not destroying Him)

That the coming Redeemer was to be the ***“seed”*** or *offspring* of the woman is important in a patriarchal culture

Normally, descendants were traced through the father

But when we look at the genealogies found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we see something different

Most conservative Bible scholars today believe that Luke is recording Mary’s genealogy and Matthew is recording Joseph’s

Matthew is following the line of Joseph (Jesus’ legal father), through David’s son Solomon, while Luke is following the line of Mary (Jesus’ blood relative), through David’s son Nathan

Since there was no Greek word for “son-in-law,”

Joseph is called the ***“son of Heli”*** by marriage to Mary, who was Heli’s daughter

Through either Mary’s or Joseph’s line, Jesus is shown a descendant of David and therefore eligible to be the Messiah

Tracing a genealogy through the mother’s side is unusual, but so is the Virgin Birth

Luke’s explanation is that Jesus was the son of Joseph, ***“as was supposed”*** – **Luke 3:23**

When we look at **Matthew 1**, the official genealogy of the Messiah is traced through Jesus' legal father (Joseph)

But in the phrase ***“seed of the woman”*** (**Gen 3:15**)

(not any mention of the seed of man)

There is an implication that the Messiah would not have a natural father, that is, He would be virgin-born

Which we believe to be true

**The ‘Uniqueness’**

But that isn’t so for everyone

**B. The ‘Opposition’**

There are those who deny the Virgin Birth

Isaiah prophesied the birth of Jesus, specifically stating that ***“a virgin”*** would conceive and bear a son, calling His name Immanuel

The word ***“virgin”*** here is a very specific Hebrew word

The Hebrew word used in **Isaiah 7:14 for *“virgin”*** is the word ***'almah’*** (some new version use *young maid*)

This word is important for an accurate translation

Those who Oppose the Virgin Birth state that this word means *a young woman that is unmarried or newly or recently married*

Remember a woman that was espoused to a man was considered married (but the marriage wasn’t consummated)

They state that if Isaiah wanted to stress the virginity of this woman, he would have used a different Hebrew word, the word ***‘bethuwlah’***

Let's take a look at the argument

First of all, the word ***bethuwlah*** was Not used here because …

This word is used sometimes in the Old Testament to refer to a woman that has already been married, but not recently

For example –

**Deuteronomy 22:19 - *“And they shall amerce him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days”***

**Joel 1:8 – *“Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth”***

The word ***‘almah’*,** on the other hand, is never used in the Bible to refer to a woman that is married

This is the reason this word was used

It is the right word to use

The word ***‘almah’*** occurs six other times in the Scriptures and in each case it refers to a virgin woman

**Genesis 24:43 *– “Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink;”***

**Exodus 2:8 –** ***“And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid (virgin) went and called the child's mother”***

**Psalm 68:25 –** ***“The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels (virgins) playing with timbrels”***

**Proverbs 30:19 –** ***“The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid” (virgin)***

**Song of Solomon 1:3 *– “Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee”***

**Song of Solomon 6:8 *– “There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number”***

It is interesting to note that the translators of a Greek Old Testament, known as the Septuagint

(Which, by the way, is a very suspicious translation)

They translated the Hebrew word ***almah*** in **Isaiah 7:14** as ***“virgin”***

The Greek word they used was ***parthenon*** which can only mean “virgin”, a woman never knowing a man

Even these translators believed that **Isaiah 7:14** referred to the virgin birth of the Messiah

But not the translators of the modern versions

**The ‘Uniqueness’, The ‘Opposition’ …**

**C. The ‘Specialness’**

The specialness of this birth is seen in the fact that this birth would be a sign to the Jews

To Ahaz and the Jews in Isaiah's day, the boy named Immanuel would be a sign to the people that God was with them

In reference to the Messiah, His birth would be something that was unique and very special

The woman would be a virgin when she conceived, and until after the child’s birth

There would be no other birth like this birth!

The birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of **Isaiah 7:14**

**Matthew 1:21-23 *– “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 Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”***

Matthew understood exactly that **Isaiah 7:14** was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ

As the virgin birth was prophesied, so was the new birth or salvation of men

It’s God's plan, just like His plan for the virgin birth; that ALL men be born again

Christ died for the entire world, not just a select few

Not all men will trust in Christ, but it is God's desire that they be saved if they will trust in Him by faith

**II Peter 3:9 – *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”***

**I Timothy 2:4 *– “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”***

Do you know the Lord?

Have you put your faith in Him to take you to Heaven?

Why is the truth of the Virgin Birth so Important?

… And something we must earnestly contend for

**II Corinthians 5:21 *– “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

If Jesus isn’t sinless, then we aren’t saved

Because only a perfect / holy sacrifice could wash away our sin!

**THE LORD’S “APPROACH”**

**THE KING’S “AVOIDANCE”**

**THE MESSIAH’S “ARRIVAL”**

**IV. THE FUTURE “ATROCITIES” - vs. 17-25 (read)**

Isaiah prophesied about the destruction that would come in the future from Assyria

The land would be devastated and grown over with thorns and briers

The Assyrians would shave their heads as they were taken into captivity

It would become a time of great humiliation, all because the people would not trust in the Lord

Beloved, those who reject Christ or will not live for Him will find humiliation and sorrow on their paths

Don't make that mistake

Live your life for Him

Realize that the fear or the opposition we may face in this life, is nothing compared to the shame we will experience when we see Jesus (If we don’t live for him)

**CONCLUSION**

**THE LORD’S “APPROACH”**

**THE KING’S “AVOIDANCE”**

**THE MESSIAH’S “ARRIVAL”**

**THE FUTURE “ATROCITIES”**