

“A Choice to Trust”

Isaiah 7

The Choice V. 1-9

Uzziah was a strong King that none of the nations would challenge or defy. Jotham was not as strong but kept to his father's practices. Jotham defeated the Ammonites and had several building projects but he did not remove the corrupt priests or practices of the people. Once his son Ahaz took the throne things started to heat up. Ahaz was not as strong as his father or grandfather and was sympathetic to the Assyrians. Syria and Israel were threatened by Assyria and pressured Ahaz to join them against Assyria. Because he did not, Syria and Israel plotted to overthrow Judah. Ahaz was very afraid and went out on the aqueduct to inspect it in preparation of a siege. Isaiah was sent by God to meet Ahaz there. **2 Chronicles 28**

“Shear-jashub” – Only a remnant will remain.

God's message V.4-9 – Be careful, be calm, do not be afraid, do not lose heart. V.4

God will prevail and not let Syria and Israel conquer Judah. They are a smoldering ember of no consequence and before a generation passes (65 years) they will be conquered themselves. V.5-9

Stand firm in your faith in order to stand firm. V.9

The Trustworthy Sign V. 10-25

Ahaz' pious response – “I will not test God.” Ahaz participated in religious practices but his heart was far from God. **Numbers 14:20-23**

The Virgin – “*almah*”- young woman of marrying age. This sign has two possible meanings. One is that it is a messianic prophecy about the virgin birth and end times judgment. Although there are some similarities the words used and judgment describe was more in line with Ahaz' time. The young woman may have been there at the conversation and Isaiah pointed to her saying she will have a son and before he is 12 these things will take place. Israel does fall about 12 years after this conversation and Judah is in ruins.

Curds and Honey – This also has a dual meaning. Curds and honey indicated that either the fields are destroyed and unable to support crops or that there are not enough people left to farm the land. Curds and honey was also the staple of the Kings. There are so few people left that even the common man can feast like a King.

Application

Wisdom in choices. **Exodus 14:13-14**

God is with us. **Romans 8:31-39**

Faith not piety. **2 Timothy 3:5**

Discussion Questions

What choices does God ask of us?

What is the Faithful response?

What signs point to God's provision and love?

Homework

Read *Isaiah 8*

Answer the following questions:

1. What does God's Word say? List the facts.
2. What does God's Word mean? Learn the lessons.
3. What does God's Word mean to me? Listen to His voice.
4. How will I respond to God's Word today? Live it out.

Pick out one choice or opportunity this week that God has pointed out to you. How did you respond? What sign has God given you in that?