



MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: Isaiah 7

Plug In...

Judah's King Ahaz must trust what the Lord God says (vv.7-9). Syria (Rezin, King of Aram) teams up with northern Israel, "Ephraim" (Pezkah, King of Israel). They wage war against Jerusalem where Ahaz is.

God tells Ahaz that Jerusalem will not fall. All Ahaz has to do is trust God's word.

Chew It Over...

"If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all" (v.9). This defines faith. You can fear. You can have doubts. They don't cancel faith. Faith waits on God, stands by for God, despite these emotions and worries.

Faith can be weak. Faith does not equal the absolute absence of fear. Faith grows. The words of Jesus show that He welcomes and responds to little faith ([Matthew 8:23-27](#)), weak faith ([Mark 9:14-26](#)), doubting faith ([John 20:24-29](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Use Paul's prayer to ask for Jesus to do the work in building up your faith, our faith.

I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the

Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

[\[Ephesians 3:14-23\]](#).



TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: Isaiah 8 & James 1:2-4

Plug In...

God promised Ahaz the big nation Assyria will come like a flood and wipe out the threat of Syria and Ephraim ([7:17-18](#)). It will test the faith of Ahaz and his people. For Assyria will be brutal, even marching up to the gates of Jerusalem (vv.7-8).

Ahaz has been told God is with him. Even given a sign ([7:10-17](#) – the boy called 'Immanuel'). Their identity now is: *Immanuel!* (v.8). Will they believe it, even if the flood waters come up to their neck?

Chew It Over...

What crises have you gone through? What is difficult right now? What situation or circumstance introduces fear into your life?

In that circumstance faith appears: Do you believe that Jesus has overcome the world? [1 John 5:4-5](#) tells us even though this world is bad – you may be 'up-to-your-neck' in it – we are called to do what Jesus says. There will be contrary voices. So the alternate voices and the situation make this hard. Yet, trust in God. In the words of God to Isaiah: "Do not fear what they fear; do not be terrified. You are to regard only the LORD of Hosts as holy."

Prayer Suggestion

Ask for patience to wait on the Lord, knowing that He uses the testing of our faith to build perseverance ([James 1:2-4](#)).



WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: Isaiah 9 & Matthew 4:12-17

Plug In...

Through chapters 7-8, Isaiah tells King Ahaz of Judah that darkness will consume Israel. Darkness also will come upon most of Judah: all the way up to the neck of Jerusalem. It is dark, dark, dark ([8:18-22](#)). The result of this darkness is people will go deeper into darkness by consulting those that are deadly-dark (dead ones). They do this attempting to escape the darkness, only to be driven into thicker darkness.

Then, Isaiah declares light will dawn on the other side of that darkness. It starts with a child. The child brings justice and righteousness. This light expands and lasts forever.

Chew It Over...

Notice the fourfold name of this person, this child to be born. Linger on each title. How does each designate something unique and awesome about the person?

Read [Matthew 4:12-17](#). Notice what Matthew says about Jesus in the context of Israel and the dark fact that the prophet of God was imprisoned. Who does Matthew see Jesus is?

There are many children born and given names in the book of Isaiah. Each child's name speaks of God's activity and promises. Leading to Christmas, if you have children, you could talk through their names, why you liked the name, and gave them this name. Then lead into talking about Jesus' names.

Prayer Suggestion

While we wait for the darkness to completely evaporate and the never ending light of His kingdom to fully come, praise God that He is committed to bringing this about. Praise and trust God that this has begun and will not stop until it reaches fulfilment because the zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this!



THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: Isaiah 10 & 1 Timothy 2:1-2

Plug In...

Israel's God is called the Holy One through Isaiah. The unique God controlling and owning creation ([1:2](#)), history ([2:2](#)), and politics (10:12) for His own glory.

Chew It Over...

"Does an axe exalt itself above the one who chops with it?" Assyria tries to. Many of today's superpowers speak only of their strength, wisdom, war spoils and success.

We are reminded here that God allows governments to reign temporarily (see also [Romans 13:1](#)). Isaiah 10:15-16 assumes nations have some concept that they are subordinate and responsible to God. The side-stepping of this is what they get judged for.

Temporary governments are to uphold God's justice and righteousness (*cf.* [9:6-7](#)). Their great temptation is to become arrogant and dismiss God. This brings immediate suffering for their people. But the suffering is temporary, for the arrogant move is the nation's ultimate ruin – for they are temporary!

Prayer Suggestion

While we wait for the one who will have the future worldwide government upon His shoulders to return, let us pray for our government. Ask that they uphold justice and righteousness. Ask God to provide more members in parliament that glean their wisdom from God's word as it informs their personal faith. As we think of those

governments that overstep their calling and oppress, abuse, persecute their people, particularly as they ostracise and malign Christians, may God remove them for the sake of His people and the spread of the gospel.



FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: [Isaiah 10:20 – 11:16](#)

Plug In...

Scroll back to 10:20-23. It explains what is happening. Assyria raiding Israel and slamming up against Judah is the LORD God carrying out His decree. The destruction is active judgement against them from God. Assyria is God's instrument to judge.

As darkness takes over Israel and Judah, light is dawning simultaneously. The light appears as a promise: there will be a people of God. They will be made up of ones saved from the destruction they deserve. Saved by the one carrying out the destruction.

Chapter 11 pictures the remnant that is saved starting with an individual from King David's line; the stump of Jesse (v.1). He embodies the Spirit of God (v.2). He enlarges the remnant from himself as one, to a group that by their population fill the world with the knowledge of the LORD (v. 9).

Chew It Over...

What type of people does this one from David's line execute justice towards? To what type of people does He execute?

Never stop taking time to ask yourself: What type of person am I? Who am I becoming?

Prayer Suggestion

Lord, in Australia with our many privileges and wealth, we are more likely to be on the side of oppressors. Help us to use our wealth, health, opportunities, to find and seek the oppressed. Use it to bring them good news. Use it through the power of Jesus as He takes them and builds up the remnant to encompass the entire world. Lord we know we would not move in this direction unless through Jesus giving us the Spirit we too delight in and fear you.



WEEKEND 16-17 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

Read: Isaiah 12

Plug In...

Isaiah crafts a song. It is a gospel song. It is a song that will be sung in the future. It is given to a people whose future is so guaranteed, they can sing the lyrics of the song today.

Chew It Over...

Verse 6 shows the citizen of Zion cries out and sings. Because of their God, this song resonates with their life. It is a citizen song. An identity song. You sing such things only because of who you are and where you are going.

You might not be an overly singing-type but the same response to these truths can be had with artistic expression, day-dreams, emotions, expressions, conversations, actions (maybe even singing). It is the truths, when held as true and precious, that will gush out of the citizen of heaven, the one whose affections are for Jesus Christ.

Consider how you respond. What holds you back? How can you cultivate more of this soundtrack to life? Where can you be among God's people more to see God's work and celebrate it? Is there more drinking deeply from the salvation truths of the gospel that you need to immerse in?

Re-read the song. Let these words, ultimately from God's Spirit, take you where you need to be.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray with the song lyrics. Request that these lyrics are the soundtrack to your life.