

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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SERIES: Isaiah, Part 1 (Judgment – But Hope)

TITLE: Program 17 – A Sign For Deliverance

TUESDAY

OPEN

O Beloved, is your heart troubled? Are you being attacked by fear? Do you feel like you're just going this way and that way? You're afraid to pick up the phone, you don't want to hear the news. You can't stand any kind of traumatic situation because you're overcome with fear and with the situations of life and you're just very unstable. Is that what God wants? No, Beloved. He wants you to be calm, and today you'll see how.

PART ONE

Our precept for life, Beloved, as we study Isaiah, chapter 7, 8 and 9 through verse 7 this week, our precept for life is, that we are not to fear, but we are to walk in faith. That we are to know that, "...If [we] **will not believe...**," we will **"...not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) We will not make it. We will become a basket case. We will be driven by everything, every circumstance around us. We will be all shook up, and it won't be like Elvis Presley singing, "I'm All Shook Up." I mean, it will be a shaking to the core. Now as we come to

Isaiah chapter 7, we come to a historical event in the midst of this book that is primarily outstanding Hebrew poetry and prophecy. Up until this point, we have only had one other historical event mentioned, and that is the death of Uzziah, when Isaiah, at the time of Uzziah's death, in that year, "...[sees] **the Lord..., high and lifted up....**"(Isaiah 6:1, KJV) So now we have moved into a segment that is going to take us into a historical account of what happens between Isaiah the prophet and Ahaz the king of Judah. Now remember the book of Isaiah is the vision that the Lord gave Isaiah, the son of Amos, during the reigns, now watch, of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah— during the reign of four kings. Now when you study Isaiah, you see that the only place that Jotham is mentioned— and Jotham is the son of Uzziah, and he was a good king—but the only mention that you find of him is in connection with his son, Ahaz, who is a bad king; who is an evil king. So in the book of Isaiah, he goes from Uzziah's death, and Uzziah died a leper because Uzziah did not hold fast in faith. He became proud. His proud heart was lifted up. He went into the temple to offer incense from the altar of incense. He was not allowed to do that; it was only for the priests to do that. And when the priests tried to stop him he turned around in a rage. And when he turns around in that rage, and you can read about it in 2 Chronicles, he turns around and all of a sudden he's leprous. And God afflicts him with leprosy, and when God afflicts him with leprosy, it's a judgment because Uzziah does not believe God. (See 2 Chronicles 26:19-21) So we skip over Jotham who does believe God. And God gives us another example of a king who does not believe God, and who, if he would, would be established and who would have his throne secure and who would not need to fear. But this king thinks he can do it better himself. Now listen to me very carefully. There's a lesson to be learned here. There's a precept for life for you and me and that is, ["let him that thinks he stands, be very careful lest you fall when you think that you stand"] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 10:12) Why? Because you're standing in your own strength. And that's not the way

we stand. We're to stand trusting God. So Ahaz has heard, just a quick review, that Aram, the king of Aram, who is Rezin, is going to come down, or has come down, and he's picked up Pekah on the way, who is the son of Remaliah, who is the king of Israel and they are come and they are outside of Jerusalem, and they are trying to capture, to take Jerusalem. (See Isaiah 7:1) Ahaz is all shook up. And so are the people's hearts. So God sends Isaiah and his son, Shear-jashub, which is "a remnant shall return," is what Shear-jashub means. And "Isaiah" means, "Jehovah saves," or "the salvation of Jehovah." So he sends two men to him, one whose name is, "It's Jehovah that saves," and the other one is, "A remnant shall return, there is a faithful remnant." And that's what we're talking to you about this week is, being part of that faithful remnant. They go to Ahaz and they tell him, "You do not need to fear." They meet him, now this is very important, at the conduit of the water source for Jerusalem, and they meet him there as a reminder that this is God's city. Jerusalem is God's city. His name is there, and yes the water could be stopped outside the city by an enemy, but God's name is there and God's going to protect them. And you just stand here by these waters, because they're a symbol of faith, of trusting God no matter how the situation looks. So he comes and he tells them, "This is not gonna happen. What's going to happen is God's gonna get rid of Aram. He's gonna have Damascus conquered. He's going to get rid of the son of Remaliah, he is not going to last. Pekah is going to go down. You don't need to fear. He says in 65 years everything will be gone, so quit fearing them. (See Isaiah 7:1-9) So now we come to Isaiah chapter 7, where I left off. His last words are are key words for this week. And it's in a negative, but we're taking it straight from the Scriptures. **"...If you will not believe, you surely shall not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) Now what I would do is, I would write that out and I'd put it on my refrigerator, so that you see it about three times a day when you go into the kitchen to get food, or twice a day if you're working. So, **"...If you will not believe, you surely [will] not last."** (Isaiah 7:9) And that will be a

reminder, “Hey you better believe, and you’ll last.” (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:9) So it says, **“Then the Lord spoke [to Ahaz] again to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask [for] a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; make it [as] deep as Sheol or [make it as] high as [the heavens.]’” (Isaiah 7:10-11)** [Listen, this is God speaking to you, and I want to assure you that I am speaking truth, so ask a sign of me.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:10-11) Watch Ahaz and **“...Ahaz [says], ‘I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord...!’”** It sounds so noble, doesn’t it? And it’s not. He doesn’t want a sign, because he doesn’t want anything that is going to stop him from doing what he wants to do. I want to ask you a question. Is there something that you want from God, and you know that you should not have it? Maybe it’s a man, maybe it’s a woman, maybe it’s a position, maybe it’s a recognition, maybe it’s something that is gonna build your pride. You want it, but it’s not good for you. No, you’re not going to ask for a sign. Why? Because you don’t want God stopping you. And so, **“...Ahaz said, ‘I will not [speak], nor will I test the Lord!’” (Isaiah 7:12)** And, **“Then he said, ‘Listen now, O house of David...!’”** He is not only speaking to Ahaz, but he is speaking to the house of David. This is very, very important. He says, **“...Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?” (Isaiah 7:13)** [I am standing here with a message from God, I am telling you to ask of God, and you’re acting, “No, I’m not going to.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:11-12) You know why, don’t you? ’Cause He wants to do what he wants to do, and he has a plan. He’s not gonna trust God. He’s gonna make an alliance with the king of Assyria. Now when you read 2 Kings 15, 2 Kings 16, 2 Kings 17, it all falls in your lap, and if you downloaded the free study guide, you’ve been in those chapters. And so you get an added dimension that I’m unable to give you on the program, simply ah, because of a matter of time and ’cause I don’t want to lose you. I want to keep you. So watch what he says. He says, **“Therefore...,”** verse 14, **“...the Lord Himself will give you a sign....”** Since you won’t ask, then God

Himself is going to give you a sign. **“...Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)** Do you realize what God has just said? Do you realize what has just been recorded in Isaiah 7? Do you realize to whom He’s speaking? He’s not speaking just to Ahaz, but He says in verse 13, **“...Listen now, O house of David...!” (Isaiah 7:13)** He says, [“I want my people to listen to me. I want the house of David to understand something. I, God Almighty, am going to give you a sign.”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:13-14) And in my Bible, next to that “you,” I would write that it’s a plural. He is going to give to the house of David a sign. What is that sign? **“...Behold, a virgin...,”** a virgin, **“...will be with child and [will] bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)** “Immanuel,” which means “God with us.” He has just spoken of the incarnation of God in human flesh, God in man, God born of a virgin, God with us in the form of a child. We’ll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

I am so excited. I love teaching you the Word of God. I get so excited, and then I get excited when you come to Chattanooga and I get to meet you face to face. This morning I had the privilege of meeting a man who was a Muslim, who came to know Jesus Christ, who came to recognize that Jesus is the Son of God, that God does have a son, and His name is “Yeshua.” His name is Jesus. And the other thing that was so exciting is, that I’m talking to him and he’s talking to me about a man who is Jewish who has come to know Jesus Christ and who is working in Romania where we are working, and we are going to connect them with our Romanian work. It’s awesome; absolutely awesome. Why? Because it is the fulfillment of the sign that God gave to Ahaz, to the house of David. He said to Ahaz, listen, **“...If you [do] not believe, you...[will] not last.” (Isaiah 7:9)** And then he says, **“Ask [me for] a sign...,” (Isaiah 7:11)** because I want to build your faith.” Now you

and I don't need to ask for signs today. Why? They didn't have the Bible like we have. Oh they had the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, but they didn't have the completed Bible like you and I have. We have the completed revelation of God. But all they had was this word of the prophet. And so he says, "...[Okay,] He says, **"Ask [for] a sign...;"** and he says, "... [I'm not gonna] **ask**, [I'm not gonna] **test the Lord!"** (Isaiah 7:12) And it provokes him. It provokes Isaiah; it provokes God. And so He says, ["Okay I'll give you a sign. A virgin is going to conceive."] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14) Let me read it to you again. Isaiah 7:14, you don't want to forget it. As a matter of fact, you want to memorize it. **"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."** (Isaiah 7:14) Immanuel. And this is very important, because you're going to see it in chapter 8. Immanuel, means "God with us." Now let's go to Matthew, chapter 1, because it's in Matthew, chapter 1 that we have the fulfillment of the sign. Remember he said, **"...The Lord Himself will give you..."**, O house of David, "you" plural, which I explained earlier, **"...a sign..."** Well we go now all the way from 732 B.C. all the way to about 4 B.C. when they believe that Jesus was born, about 4 B.C. It's awesome. And we go to this time in Matthew, chapter 1 and verse 18. And it says, **"Now the birth of Jesus... was as follows: when His mother...[was] betrothed to Joseph..."**, listen very carefully, **"...before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit."** (Matthew 1:18) She was pregnant. "Before they came together" means before they had sexual intercourse. And it says, **"And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly."** (Matthew 1:19) He could write her a bill of divorcement, because that engagement was like a covenant. And the only reason that he could break that engagement was if he found something unclean. (See Deuteronomy 24:1) Well he's found that the woman he's supposed to marry is with a child. And he thinks it's some other

man's child, but he doesn't want to disgrace her. He could have her stoned. So he decides to put her away privately. Shows the kind of man he was. And it says, **"But when he...considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David....' Now remember this is a sign to the house of David. He says, "...Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who [was] conceived in her is [born] of the...Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)** A virgin will conceive. It's a term for maiden that could be just translated "maiden" in the Old Testament, but when you get to the New Testament, it is a virgin and nothing but a virgin. And whether you agree with the interpretation of those words, God has spelled it out for you. You don't need to doubt a thing. Remember, faith doesn't doubt. It takes God at His Word. It says, **"[And] she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus..., "Yeshua," Savior, "...for He will save His people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfill..., "now catch this, this is so beautiful, "...what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child...shall bear a Son, and [you] shall call his name Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:21-23)** A virgin conceives. What God puts in her womb is His Son, His Son. And so she gives birth to a boy, to a son whose name is Immanuel and because it is not conceived of Adam's seed, and because it is not a human father, he is not born with inherent sin. The Bible says in Romans 5:12, **"...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; ...so [then] death passed upon all men...[in] that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12, KJV)** But see Jesus had to be born without sin so that ["He who knew no sin, could be made sin for you and for me."] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:21) Now do you believe this? **"...If you [do] not believe [it]..., "listen to me very carefully, "...you ...[will] not last." (Isaiah 7:9)** If you, hearing this say, "I refuse to believe that. That doesn't make sense to me," then you are not walking by faith, and you will not last. You know what sin is? The Bible says in John 16

that, “...when [the Spirit of God] comes, [he] ...convict[s] the world [of] sin...,” (John 16:8) because they do not believe in Jesus. And that is the ultimate sin. So in Matthew chapter 1, where we were looking, what we have is a quote of Isaiah 7:14, and it says, “**And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...**,” he walked by faith, “...and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin...,” she had known no man, “...until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name **Jesus.**” (Matthew 1:24-25) Precious One, do you realize that God sticks this absolute treasure for the house of David and for the whole world in this place where a king will not believe and He tells them, [“I’m going to give you a sign,”] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 7:14) And that sign is your salvation. Because that sign is about your Savior. It’s tucked there, as a truth for you and I not only to memorize, not only to treasure, but to live by.