

the TAKE HOME

Today's Scripture Passage: *Isaiah 7:1-14*

1 When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. 2 Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field. 4 Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood--because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. 5 Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, 6 "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." 7 Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'It will not take place, it will not happen, 8 for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. 9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son. **If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.**' " 10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Questions for Reflection, Discussion & Action

- What triggers fear in your life?
- When King Ahaz was afraid, he looked to the army to secure him. Who or what do you look to when you're afraid?
- God is super/above the most fearful circumstances you face or will face. Do you live as though this is true? What difference should this make in your life as you face fear?
- In this season of your life, what does it mean to you that Jesus is called Immanuel or "God with you?"

For Further Reading:

- John 1:1-14, Matthew 1:23, I John 5:10, Hebrews 11:6, Romans 11:20,

Prayer Prompts:

- "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."
- "Give me courage to take captive any thoughts that raise themselves above you and make them obedient to Christ."
- "Jesus, I see that You are with me. Help me not to get ahead of you. Help me wait on You to undertake my cause. Give me patience and peace."