

Theme: Believers are faced with a decision of where to place their trust - in God, His Promise and His Kingdom, or in the kingdoms of this world.

I. Intro – Fateful Decisions

- A. The Rubicon river just North of Rome
- B. The law of the Rubicon - no army can cross
- C. Caesar - alea iacta est - die is cast/thrown
- D. Crossing the Rubicon - point of no return
- E. Adam and Eve - no turning back!

II. Background: Syro-Ephraimite Invasion

- A. Background texts - 2 Ki 16; 2 Chr 28
- B. Summary of the invasion (7:1)
- C. The reason - alliance against Assyria (map)
- D. Initial response - fear (7:2) - 'shaken' - 6:4
- E. Initial success - 2 Chr 28:5-8
- F. Marching to besiege Jerusalem (v1; retrospective)
- G. Want to set a puppet king on throne (v5-6)

III. Judah in the Valley of Decision

- A. God sends Isaiah, SJ to Ahaz at pool w/ message (v3)
- B. The message - trust in God - not Assyria
 - 1. Stay calm - they are weak, about to fall (v4)
 - 2. They are nothing - you are David's son (v4-9)

- C. The promise of God - they will fail
 - 1. The Sovereign LORD speaks (v7)
 - 2. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN (v7)
 - 3. They will soon cease to exist (v16; 8:4)
- D. The call: Trust in God - not Assyria (v9b)

IV. The Sign of Immanuel - God With Us

- A. God commands Ahaz to name a sign (v10-11)
- B. The reason for the sign - critical hour (Delitzsch)
- C. Ahaz's hypocritical refusal (v12)
- D. God's response - The Sign of Immanuel (v13-14)
- E. We will cover Immanuel more in 2 weeks
- F. A double edged sign
 - a. Deliverance - Syria & Israel will fall (v15-16; 8:3-4)
 - b. Judgment - Assyria comes (v17,18-20)
- G. Help that is a snare (2 Chronicles 28:16,20)
- H. Whatever we trust in place of God will devour us!!!

V. Applying the Word

- A. Do I fear God or the circumstances around me?
 - 1. Ahaz & Judah feared circumstances - not YHWH
 - 2. Fearful circumstances today - economy, terrorism, disease, etc.
 - 3. God's call - do not fear what they fear, fear Me (8:11-14)

4. God is our shelter in the storm!!

B. Do I trust God or the arm of flesh?

1. Ahaz leaned on Assyria - and paid dearly
2. The root issue - he did not trust God's promise
3. Psalm 20:7 - where is trust - God or chariots?
4. Where do I place my trust?
5. What do my attitudes, words and actions say I trust?

C. Do I believe God's Sign - Immanuel?

1. The NT use of Isaiah 7:14 and Immanuel
2. Do I see that the real danger is sin?
3. Do I see that real danger is judgment day?
4. Do I stand on God's provision or my works?
5. Do I see no one can deliver except Immanuel?
6. Turn to Immanuel and receive deliverance

D. Communion - trusting in Immanuel

In the Valley of Decision: Where Is Your Trust?

Isaiah 7:1-25

Psalm 20

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Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14 or Psalm 20

Therefore the LORD his God handed him over to the king of Aram. The Arameans defeated him and took many of his people as prisoners and brought them to Damascus. He was also given into the hands of the king of Israel, who inflicted heavy casualties on him. 6 In one day Pekah son of Remaliah killed a hundred and twenty thousand soldiers in Judah--because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. 7 Zicri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed Maaseiah the king's son, Azrikam the officer in charge of the palace, and Elkanah, second to the king. 8 The Israelites took captive from their kinsmen two hundred thousand wives, sons and daughters. They also took a great deal of plunder, which they carried back to Samaria. 2 Chronicles 28:5-8

But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, **the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.** Isaiah 7:16

Before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' **the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.**" Isaiah 8:4

In that very hour, in which Isaiah was standing before Ahaz, the fate of Jerusalem was decided for more than two thousand years. Franz Delitzsch

He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. 16 **But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.** Isaiah 7:15-16

Then I went to the prophetess, and **she conceived and gave birth to a son.** And the LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. 4 **Before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.**" Isaiah 8:3-4

The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah--**he will bring the king of Assyria.**" Isaiah 7:17

In that day the LORD will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. 19 They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thornbushes and at all the water holes. 20 In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the River--the king of Assyria--to shave your head and the hair of your legs, and to take off your beards also. Isaiah 7:18-20

16 At that time King Ahaz sent to the king of Assyria for help... 20 Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came to him, but he gave him trouble instead of help. 2 Chronicles 28:16,20

The LORD spoke to me with his strong hand upon me, warning me not to follow the way of this people. He said: 12 "Do not call conspiracy everything that these people call conspiracy; do not fear what they fear, and do not dread it. 13 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, 14 and he will be a sanctuary; Isaiah 8:11-14