**Isaiah 7:10-17 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11“Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” 12But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” 13Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. 15Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings. 17The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father’s house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah.”**

 We’re back with Isaiah tonight. The year is around 733 BC. We can pinpoint this by the history of Judah dealing with the nation of Aram and the nation of Israel at this time. It was around this time that Pekah was king of Israel and Rezin was king of Aram and these two were attacking Judah. They had decided to make an alliance that would allow them to resist Assyria. They asked Ahaz to join their alliance, but Ahaz refused because of his fear of Assyria. Now, Rezin and Pekah are attacking Jerusalem. This attack failed (verse 1), but they succeeded in frightening Ahaz and the people and verse 2 says their hearts “moved… as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind” The word moved should be taken as trembled – that is the meaning of the word in Hebrew. God, in verses 3-9 sends Isaiah to reassure Ahaz that God is protecting him.

 We pick up in verse 10 - **Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying.** In verses 3-9, it is very clear that God is speaking through Isaiah to Ahaz, but in verse 10, it becomes less clear. We can’t know if God speaks directly to Ahaz or through the prophet Isaiah, but we do clearly know that the message is from the one true God. The word for Lord is Yahweh, so we are dealing with the God of the Universe in this passage.

 Verse 11 - **“Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.”** Sometimes, we forget that the God of Grace of the New Testament is the God of Grace of the Old Testament. In this verse, we see an invitation from God Himself that shows that our God, no matter the place we encounter Him, is a God of second chances He is a God of grace! He sees that Ahaz is torn, afraid, his very heart is trembling – Ahaz is tempted to make an alliance with Assyria because of the trouble brought by Rezin and Pekah. God offers Ahaz a sign – this sign will be a sign of trust and assurance. God still works the same way with is today. Just this week, I had someone say that they were struggling and they attended a meeting that they weren’t even sure God wanted them to attend – yet, they found peace and rest and assurance that, had they not attended the meeting, they may have missed. Our God is a personal God and He is personally in love with His children.

 God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign. Blank check – in the deep or in the heights. We know that God can stop the sun, make fleece dry in heavy dew, set rainbows, or raise the dead. Ahaz can ask for whatever he feels will convince him that God is with him. But, if Ahaz asks, he will receive and, once received, he will be forced to acknowledge God’s power. This is an invitation and a test – no more straddling the fence. Ahaz must stop being lukewarm. He’s either with God or he is with the world. And so it is with is even today – we must choose where to place our faith.

 Verse 12 - **But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!”** Ahaz seeks to wiggle out again. He falls back on a statement rooted in Deuteronomy 6:16 - “You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah”, referring to when the people quarreled against Moses and tested God because they had no water in Exodus 17. But Ahaz is in a different situation. God has invited him to ask for a sign. God does not invite us to what He will not deliver! Ahaz is using this as yet another excuse to stay on the fence, because he has likely already decided to ally with Assyria and not trust God. His problem is Faith! And often, this is our problem as well, as we continue to squirm and twist even as God tells us to trust.

 Verse 13 - **Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?** Now God addresses the house of David. Many scholars see Ahaz rejection as a clear turning point in the future of the house of David – Judah and Israel. Ahaz abandons God. This is just the latest disappointment in a long list of disappointments and rebellions from God’s people. God says – enough. God will not be wearied by us in our rebellion. Jeremiah 11:14 says - So do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble. God will not be mocked – when a person continues to push God away and reject His love, consequences will come.

 Verse 14 - **Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.** God rejects Ahaz, and Israel, and states a sign. We know this sign as Jesus Christ! Listen to the fulfillment in Matthew 1:23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Not much more to say than that. Born of a virgin, our Savior arrived. But God with us, while comforting to the saved is dangerous for the unsaved. The God that directs time and space directs it for those who bow the knee to His Son and for those who reject Him.

 Verse 15 - **Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.** Jewish law calls for a child to know the Law before age 13. In Luke 2, we see Jesus at age 12 amazing the scholars. Luke 2:47 says And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.” Jesus knew because He received instruction from the Lord.

 Verse 16 - **For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.** By the time Christ was born, the land of Aram and the land of Israel – the kings Ahaz rejected God to align himself with Assyria for… had been destroyed. There were no kings in either place. Overrun by Assyria, Babylon, the Medes, the Greeks, and the Romans. Ahaz chose the faithless way because of fears he saw. We must remain faithful even when we cannot see.

 Verse**17 - The Lord will bring the king of Assyria upon you and your people and your father’s house—days that have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah.”** The very king that Ahaz trusted in besieged Judah in 705 BC. The one he trusted in betrayed him. Judah became a slave state, paying tribute to keep from being destroyed. God used Assyria as a tool.

 In our walk, we are given opportunity to trust God in uncertain times. How do we trust? Jesus invites us to trust in Him. John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.” We’ll be faced with sickness, financial problems, family problems, and things we simply don’t understand. Jesus says – trust Me. Believe in the Father, believe in Me. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.