



WEEK 3 | THE MESSIAH IS COMING | NICK CARNES

All Scripture is in the Christian Standard Bible (CSB), unless noted differently.

2 Kings 16:2, 3b He did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God....^{3b} He even sacrificed his son in the fire, imitating the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had dispossessed before the Israelites.

Isaiah 1:2b, 4-5 “I have raised children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me....⁴ Oh sinful nation, people weighed down with iniquity, brood of evildoers, depraved children! They have abandoned the Lord; they have despised the Holy One of Israel; they have turned their backs on him.⁵ Why do you want more beatings? Why do you keep on rebelling? The whole head is hurt, and the whole heart is sick.

Isaiah 7:2-6 When it became known to the house of David that Aram had occupied Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the hearts of his people trembled like trees of a forest shaking in the wind.³ The Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out with your son Shear-jashub to meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, by the road to the Launderer’s Field.⁴ Say to him: Calm down and be quiet. Don’t be afraid or cowardly because of these two smoldering sticks, the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram, and the son of Remaliah.⁵ For Aram, along with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has plotted harm against you. They say,⁶ ‘Let’s go up against Judah, terrorize it, and conquer it for ourselves. Then we can install Tabeel’s son as king in it.’”

Isaiah 7:7-9 This is what the Lord God says: It will not happen; it will not occur.⁸ The chief city of Aram is Damascus, the chief of Damascus is Rezin (within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people),⁹ the chief city of Ephraim is Samaria, and the chief of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all.

NOTES:

Isaiah 7:10-14 Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask for a sign from the Lord your God—it can be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz replied, “I will not ask. I will not test the Lord.” ¹³ Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God? ¹⁴ Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

God meets _____ sinners with _____ promises

Romans 5:6-9 For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath.

GO DEEPER

This week, read the Scriptures from Sunday and answer these questions:

1. What did you learn from Sunday’s sermon? Did you gain new insights?
2. In Isaiah 7, King Ahaz and the people “*trembled like trees of the forest shaking in the wind.*” What situations in your own life tend to make your heart tremble, and what does it look like to “*stand firm in your faith*” in those moments?
3. Ahaz was far from faithful—yet God sent Isaiah to him with reassurance, a promise, and even offered a sign. What does this reveal about the character of God, and how have you personally experienced God’s mercy in seasons when you didn’t deserve it?
4. Ahaz tried to solve his crisis by forming an alliance with Assyria instead of trusting God. What are some modern “alliances” we tend to form when fear takes over—things we trust or run to instead of God?
5. God’s sign was the promise of Immanuel—“God with us”—a prophecy ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. How does the truth that God is with us speak into your current season of life? Where do you need to be reminded of this most?
6. The sermon highlighted God’s long-term faithfulness to His covenant, even across generations and despite human sin. Why is it important to understand God’s long-term perspective when we face short-term fear or uncertainty? How does remembering His past faithfulness strengthen present faith?