

Isaiah's Audacious Hope

A silhouette illustration of three figures on horseback against a vibrant sunset or sunrise sky. The sky is filled with warm colors like orange, red, and yellow, transitioning into cooler blues and purples at the top. A bright starburst is visible in the upper left corner. The figures are dark silhouettes, appearing as black shapes against the bright background. One figure on the left is mounted on a small donkey or mule. The middle figure is mounted on a larger horse. The figure on the right is also mounted on a horse and appears to be holding a long staff or spear. In the bottom left corner, there is a small silhouette of a house and a person standing near it.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-2,6; 11:1-2, 6; 53:3-5

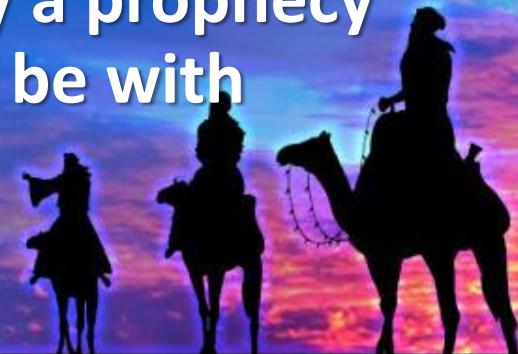
Introduction to Isaiah

- **Isaiah is called the “fifth gospel” because it is filled with so much good news.**
- **Isaiah was written about 700 years before the time of Christ.**
- **The 66 chapters in Isaiah serve as a “miniature” Bible.**
- **Isaiah dared to believe that something better was coming even though his culture was corrupt.**
- **Isaiah longed for the Lord to come to bring peace to all the problems, to dispel the darkness, and to extricate evil.**



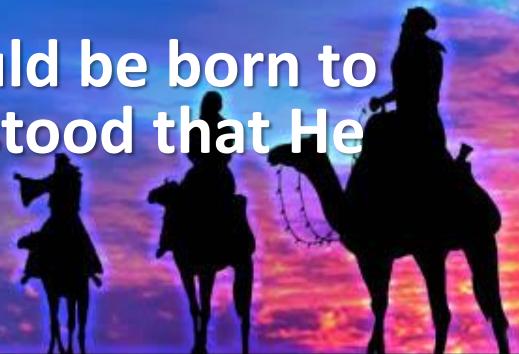
A Sure Sign

- Ahaz deliberately disobeyed God and his kingdom was under attack from all sides.
- If you do not know God when trouble comes, you will be shaken to the very core of your being.
- Ahaz was supposed to ask for a sign that would help him believe but he refused.
- Isaiah gave Ahaz a sign that was really a prophecy to all people to know that God would be with them for all time.



A Sent Son

- The original birth announcement in Isaiah 9 was given in the midst of grief and gloom.
- Isaiah told of a time in the future where gloom will be replaced with gladness.
- When the light of life comes, our heavy yoke will be shattered.
- All the expectations of the throne of King David are fulfilled in Christ.
- Isaiah not only knew that Immanuel would be born to a virgin as a sure sign, but he also understood that He would be the sent Son.



A Shoot from a Stump

- In Isaiah's day it felt hopeless because the only thing left were stumps.
- Isaiah was not only able to catch a vision of the Savior as a shoot, but he also saw a time when peace prevailed.
- Isaiah showed that during His Second Advent, Jesus would usher in a time of protracted peace.
- When Jesus comes again, He will come as the conquering King and the Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah gave a sure sign when he pointed to the sent Son, and he tied the Messiah to David's throne as the shoot from a stump.



Conclusion

- Jesus came at Christmas so that by suffering and ultimately sacrificing Himself as our substitute, we can be saved from our sins.
- Ministering seven centuries before the first Christmas, Isaiah recognized Jesus as:
 - A sure sign
 - The sent Son
 - The shoot from a stump
 - The suffering Savior
- Jesus came not only to be born in this world but to be born in us.
- Let's not miss the meaning behind Christmas.

