

The background features a vibrant sunset sky with a gradient from deep blue at the top to fiery red and orange at the bottom. A bright, multi-pointed star is positioned in the upper left quadrant. In the foreground, the silhouettes of three riders on horseback are visible against the colorful sky. The rider on the right is on a camel, while the other two are on horses. The overall scene is set against a backdrop of intricate, light blue floral and circular patterns.

Isaiah's Audacious Hope

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.



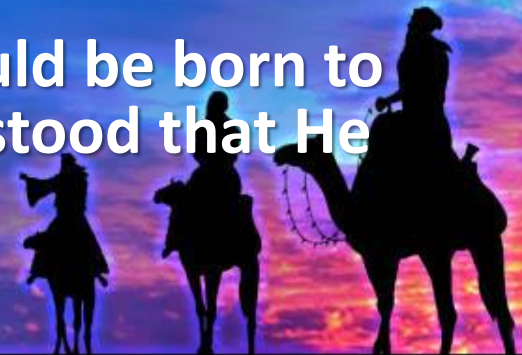
A Sure Sign

- 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.

