

Isaiah Ch. 7, *The Fruit of Faithlessness* *If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all.* Is.7:9

- The geography and politics of the kingdom
 - Rehoboam and Jereboam. I Kings 12
 - Rehoboam, son of Solomon, initially king of all Israel.
 - Jeroboam, formerly exiled, now came back and competed for a position of authority, ultimately the king of N. kingdom. I Ki.11: 26-40 _____
 - The complaint to Rehoboam, and his response.
 - The division of Israel. I Ki. 12:16-19
 - Idolatry. I Ki. 11:33, I Ki. 12:28-33
 - Judah and Israel alternately suffered severe beatings at each other's hands and at the hands of Syria, Assyria, Moab, and Egypt, among others.
 - Names of Northern Kingdom: Israel, Samaria, or Ephraim.
 - Uzziah and Jereboam II.
 - Uzziah (783-742 BC) in the south and Jeroboam II (786-746 BC) in the north rebuilt their respective kingdoms from rubble.
 - Amos and Isaiah both prophets during the latter period of these kings.
 - 721 BC: ultimate fall of Samaria, Northern Kingdom, to Assyrians. Deportation and cultural mixing.
 - Judah continues through Assyrian siege under Hezekiah (later in Isaiah), until its ultimate downfall to Babylon in 587 BC. Later restored under Persian ruler Cyrus.
- The narrative of Ch. 7.
 - Ahaz (735-715), the grandson of Uzziah, now King.
 - During the time of the Assyrian push to conquer the Northern Kingdom, or Ephraim.
 - Pekah, the next to the last king of Israel, had conspired with Rezin, the Aramean (Syrian) king, to attack Jerusalem, replace the king, and force Judah to join them in the fight against Assyria.

- When Ahaz was about to appeal to Assyria, under Tiglath-pileser, Isaiah was called by God to take his son and go to the king with the prophecy and warning of 7:4-9.
- The prophecy:
 - Stand firm in faith, 7:3-9.
 - The sign of Immanuel, a direct reference to Hezekiah, but further reference to a future Messiah. 7:10-16
 - The confusion of results proceeding from a weak faith. 7:17-25.
 - The coming of Assyria. _____
 - Sporadic abundance in the midst of poverty.
 - The land, though still possessed, will become wasted.
- Drawing the parallel forward: the application to our lives.
 - The call to faith during times of oppression. 7:4 _____

 - The warning regarding equivocation. 7:9 _____

 - The “ordinary” results of duplicitous behavior. 7:17-25
 - Negotiating with “both” sides. _____

 - Our “doubtful” faith results in fear and dread. _____

 - The “landscape” of our lives is marked with briars and thorns. _____

 - The call to faith
 - When facing an “enemy” in your life, God will not test us beyond our limits, but will give us evidence of His faithfulness.
 - The “sign” of weak faith is _____. 7:12-13
 - What is the sign of God’s faithfulness? _____

What is the “enemy” in your life today? How does it attack you, and why do you choose surrender rather than asking not only for God’s might in defeating it, but also for the sign of His faithfulness?