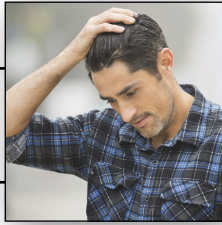


Help for **Fear** & **Worry**

"2 The news had come to the royal court of Judah: 'Syria is allied with Israel against us!' So the hearts of the king and his people trembled with fear, like trees shaking in a storm" Isaiah 7:2 NLT



- What worries you the most in your life today?

The people and the King of Judah were experiencing deep fear and worry. In Isaiah chapter 7, the kings of Syria and Israel (the Northern kingdom) were allied and planning to invade Judah (the Southern kingdom). Syria and Israel planned to overthrow Ahaz (Judah's king) and place "the son of Tabeel" on the throne (7:6). Ahaz and the people of Judah had received the news of the invasion and were filled with worry and fear. But God was with Judah. He sent Isaiah with the message that God would protect and help them, and they did not need to fear (7:2) nor worry (7:4).

Isaiah 7 teaches us that God will help us when we face situations that cause deep fear and worry.

Central Lesson:
God will help us with fear & worry if we trust Him!

1. Look for God's Message of **COMFORT** - You Matter to Him (7:3-8).

3 Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Take your son Shear-jashub and go out to meet King Ahaz... 4 Tell him to stop worrying. Tell him he doesn't need to fear the fierce anger of those two burned-out embers, King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah. 5 Yes, the kings of Syria and Israel are plotting against him, saying, 'We will attack Judah and capture it for ourselves. Then we will install the son of Tabeel as Judah's king.' 7 But this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "This invasion will never happen; it will never take place; 8 for Syria is no stronger than its capital, Damascus, and Damascus is no stronger than its king, Rezin. As for Israel, within sixty-five years it will be crushed and completely destroyed..."

Look for God's Message of Comfort - You Matter to Him! The people and the King of Judah were fearful and worried. God sent His prophet, Isaiah, to communicate to them a message of comfort and encouragement. God has a message of comfort and encouragement for us, too. You will find it in His Word, the Holy Bible! *Will you look for God's message of comfort?*

2. Make Your Faith **FIRM** - God Will Strengthen You (7:9).

"9 Israel is no stronger than its capital, Samaria, and Samaria is no stronger than its king, Pekah son of Remaliah. Unless your faith is firm, I cannot make you stand firm."

Make Your Faith Firm - God Will Strengthen You! Unfortunately, Ahaz did not have a firm faith in God. He trusted in his political maneuvers. Instead of trusting God, he allied with Assyria (compare 2 Kings 16:5-9).

Isaiah told Ahaz that his faith must be firm if he were to stand firm. In the same way, we must have a firm faith in God if we are to be strengthened by Him and able to stand firm. *Will you make your faith firm?*

3. **TRUST** God's Promises - They Are Trustworthy (7:10-17).

10 Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: 11 "Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead." 12 But the king refused. "No," he said, "I will not test the Lord like that." 13 Then Isaiah said, "Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn't it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? 14 All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."

Trust God's Promises - They Are Trustworthy! Ahaz refused to ask God for a sign to verify God's promise. He said, "No," he said, "I will not test the Lord like that" (7:12). Isaiah rebuked Ahaz for exhausting God's patience (7:13). Ahaz put on a *pious front*, saying he would not "test the Lord" (7:12) when in reality he was trusting in his alliance with Assyria to rescue him and Judea from Syria and Israel. God's promises are trustworthy!

The "sign" and promise of Isaiah 7:14. Who is the virgin? Three views

1. An unknown **WOMAN** in the time of Ahaz.

The unknown woman may or may not have been a virgin. Those who hold this view argue (1) that the Hebrew word for "virgin" should be the translated "woman." (2) The details of the verse that follow 7:14 describe accompanying signs that would be fulfilled in the time of Ahaz (see 7:15-25).

2. **MARY**, the mother of Jesus.

Those who hold this view point out that (1) Matthew 1:23 refers to the birth of Jesus as a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14. (2) The virgin birth was essential for Jesus to qualify as the human sinless Savior. His birth from Mary allowed Jesus to be human, and the virgin birth allowed him to be divine. He was the God-man.

3. **BOTH** - a woman in Ahaz day and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Those who hold this view point out that (1) "virgin" is the correct translation of the Hebrew word in Isaiah 7:14. This is confirmed by the fact that the scribes of the Septuagint (Greek version of the Hebrew Bible from 3rd-2nd century B.C.) translated it "virgin" as well as Matthew used the Greek word for virgin (1:18-25 especially verse 23) and suggested in Luke 1:31-35. (2) Some Old Testament prophecies have more than one fulfillment, a double-reference, such as Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-31) having partial fulfillment at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-18) and fulfillment during the future Tribulation period (Revelation 6:12, etc.). (3) The Isaiah 7:14 virgin birth prophecy was a sign to both "Ahaz" (7:10-11) and the "royal family of David" (7:13), suggesting the sign was for Ahaz and all Israel, including future Israel.

In short, the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 is a sign that **God's promises are trustworthy**. We can trust all God tells us through His Word and promises.

Central Lesson: God will help us with fear & worry if we trust Him!

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday's study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.