

# Christmas Prince of Peace

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Dec. 22*

The incredible promises of Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6 were originally given to wicked King Ahaz, who had basically rejected the Lord in favor of Baal and the other “gods” of the surrounding nations. Hebrews 12:6 reminds us that: *“whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...”* Since God loved Ahaz, He allowed conflicts to come. (Gal. 6:7; 2 Sam. 7:14) This “chastening” came in the form of war. Is. 7:2,3 *“And it was told saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim (Israel) And his heart was moved, (nûa’: shaken, wavered) and the heart of his people.”* God often has to shake us up in order to wake us up?

(Rev. 3:21,22) God sent the Prophet Isaiah to meet King Ahaz with some counsel and comfort.

(Is. 7:3-9) God actually offered to prove His promise to Ahaz with a supernatural “sign”, but Ahaz refused! He had already made provisions for this problem by robbing God’s Temple to

buy the services of the enemy King of Assyria!

This led to a treacherous partnership that brought pain, treachery and conflict for decades.

Such conflict has become the norm in this world that consistently rejects God’s word and ways.

Like Ahaz, we tend to panic in the face of problems, and trust the “reasonable” offers (solutions) that come from the world, but that usually result in debt, doubt, and disappointment.

We, like the Ahaz, tend to Look to the wrong sources for Peace, Protection and Provision.

Is 8:19-20 *“should not a people seek unto their God?...to the Law and to the testimony? If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”*

### 1. We tend to choose “Practical” Compromise over Principled Character.

A. He Robbed God’s Temple to do this. (Mal. 3:10) 2 Kgs 16:8

1) He also robbed God of an opportunity to demonstrate His Power! (2 Chr 16:9)

Do we not tend to fall into this same snare? (Mal. 3:10)

### 2. Doing the wrong thing will often “work” in the short term.

A. Ahaz’s “Choice” Seemed To Work!

1) Assyria fought against Syria and defeated them.

2) Assyria went to war against Israel and eventually defeated them as well. (2 Kings 17)

Asaph struggled over this paradox. Ps 73

The “Pleasures of sin” only last “for a season!” Heb. 11:25,26

### 3. Compromise Brings Consequences. *“Politics makes for strange bed-fellows”*

A. In our “Feelings” (Thinking/Reasoning)

1) Compromising (principles) produces “callouses”.

a) We “cloud” (or cauterize) our conscience. (1 Tim. 4:1,2) *“The Spirit speaketh expressly, that ... some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience (Syneci’dēsis: perception) seared with a hot iron...”* (See Pr. 20:27)

B. In our Faith: 2 Kings 16

1) Ahaz replaced the Altar in God’s Temple with one similar to what the Syrians used in their temple to worship devils!

a) *If the Syrian “gods” couldn’t help them against the Assyrians, why trust and worship them?*

C) In Our Family. (Ex. 20:5)

1) His compromise produced an alliance that required “Tribute” to be paid each year.

2) Hezekiah eventually capitulated when Sennacherib threatened to attack. (2 Kings 18:13,14)

a) History repeated itself and Hezekiah also robbed God’s Temple. (2 Kings 18:15,16)

b) Assyria took the money and attacked anyway! 2 Kings 18:17.

## You can't win in a deal with the devil! Jn 10:10

Notice the Irony of History: Isaiah met Ahaz with God's promise by the "*conduit of the upper pool...in the highway of the fuller's field*" (Isaiah 7:3) This is the exact same place where the Assyrian Army camped against Jerusalem. (2 Kings 18:17)

### Conclusion:

Many, like Ahaz, try to "buy" their own "stairway to heaven" not realizing who's actually selling it.

Some of the lines in that 1971 song "Stairway to Heaven" include:

*"there are two paths you can go by, But in the long run,*

*There's still time to change the road you're on(!?)...the Piper's calling you to join him!"*

Hezekiah decided to "change the road" he was on and look to the LORD for help. 2 Kings 19:1  
In answer to this humble prayer, God sent 1 angel and destroyed the 186,000 Assyrians camped against Jerusalem. (2 Kings 19:31)

- Both Ahaz and Hezekiah faced an overwhelming (and evil) force.
- God sent Isaiah to counsel and comfort both.
- Both heard the same promises of Is. 7:14 and 9:6. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*
- Only one (Hezekiah) chose to believe (and act upon) God's Promise.

### Application:

#### In Our Troubles, God Comes to Offer His Help.

As "Wonderful" he can bring COLOR to the DULLNESS of life. (Jn 10:10)

As "Counselor" he can bring CLARITY to the DECISIONS of life. (Jn 8:32)

As "Mighty God" he can bring COMFORT for the DEMANDS of life. (Jn 14:8)

As "Everlasting Father" he brings COMMITMENT for the DIMENSIONS of life. (Heb. 13:5)

As "Prince of Peace" he adds CONTROL for the many DISTURBANCES of life. (Jn 14:27)

Isaiah 9:7 *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end..."*

Your "government" and (ability to maintain) peace will eventually end.

So why not submit to His Authority and Receive His Help and Peace. (Mt. 11:28,29)

Is 30:15-17 *"For thus saith the Lord GOD... In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses... We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. "*

The Piper?



Who will you follow?

*"Yes, there are two paths you can go by,  
But in the long run,  
There's still time to change the road you're on (?)  
The Piper's calling you to join him"?*  
Led Zeplin "Stairway to heaven"

Note: Akaine Kramarik painted this  
painted Jesus as "The Prince of Peace"  
at the age of 8!

<https://akiane.com/product/prince-of-peace/>

The Prince of Peace?

