

## Stand Firm In Your Faith

25<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Isaiah 7:1-17,

In the Bible, particularly, the OT, there are lots of stories of how the people of Israel had lived in relationship with God and journeyed throughout their histories. Ahaz had been crowned King of Judah at the young age of twenty during the late eighth century before the birth of Christ. In those days, Assyria was growing stronger and threatening the smaller nations whose security depended on a very delicate political balance. Wars and rumours of war were a daily part of life. God was protecting Judah from previous attacks in the past, yet unfortunately, King Ahaz was afraid.

God knew of the fear that overwhelmed Ahaz and sent Isaiah to tell him two things. What God first says was "Trust him" (vs. 3 &4). But the king of Judah, Ahaz has fears: fear of invasion and loss of his throne. Then the second thing God says is in verses 7 to 9: God clearly says the invasion will not happen. There is nothing to fear. The message to Ahaz is simple: there is only one source of true assurance and well-being – not Assyria, but God.

That is the same message the Lord proclaims to us today. There is so much pressure, so many problems – people, things, circumstances. But they are not eternal, they will not last. We will endure if we get our eyes off of them and onto what really lasts. Faith is about the practical action of trusting God, highlighted by a situation of vulnerability and weakness. So those who stand firm are those who recall the promises of God and cling to them. Great confidence is, no matter the circumstance, for our God is with us. He will never leave us or forsake us. Therefore, we are able to stand firm in him, Amen.