



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Unbroken Promise: Signed, Sealed, Delivered”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe – December 15, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you could only listen to music or read books, which would you choose?
- What would your perfect day look like?
- What are you looking forward to doing this holiday season?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Isaiah 7: 14 ESV

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

God gave a sign of things to come.

The verse above is spoken by the prophet Isaiah within the context of Ahaz, king of Judah struggling to trust God. Ahaz and his people were terrified because Syria and Israel devised a plan to overtake Judah. God showed his concern for Judah by sending the prophet Isaiah. Ahaz doubted the prophecy of Isaiah, that God wouldn't let the plans of Syria and Israel succeed. Isaiah suggested Ahaz ask God for a sign that he spoke the truth. Even though Ahaz didn't want a sign, God still gave him a sign by foretelling the future of the cities and the birth of Jesus. To include the birth of a child as part of the answer to a potential war might seem unrelatable. This teaches us that the way God responds to our problems might not be the way that we expect. It accounts for the present and what's best in the future. Scripture tells us that both signs came to pass. We have a choice to trust God or be like Ahaz and try to control the future of our lives. God knows and controls all things. Will we accept Jesus as the sign that our future is secure?

The answer to our problems is sealed and delivered in Jesus.

As much as our world has advanced through technology and science, it can be tempting to forget that what we all need has already come in Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:23 tells us that the prophecy, of our focus verse was fulfilled when the virgin conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The conception of Jesus qualifies him as the only answer to our problems. The book of Hebrews tells about Jesus being fit to intercede to God on our behalf. He is holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. When we believe in the good news of Jesus we are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comforts, convicts, and reminds us that all things work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) With Jesus as our Savior, we can trust that our future is secure despite what life looks like today.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Do you struggle to trust God for direction in the midst of difficult circumstances?
- Who is Jesus to you?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for being faithful to fulfill his word.
- Ask God for renewed hope through a revelation of his control over our lives.
- Ask God for boldness to share the power of Jesus to others.