



Behold Joy

Joy is the fruit that grows
In the fertile soil of trust

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 7:10–15

[10] Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: [11] “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” [12] But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” [13] And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. [15] He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Joy is the fruit that grows in the fertile soil of trust

Sooner or later this question presses itself upon us: If I put my trust in God, will he save me? Will he be true to his promises in the gospel when it really counts for me? Our answer to that question will either be an agonized struggle back and forth, as we are unable to make up our minds, or our answer will be a clear yes. And the larger point Isaiah is making is that God’s people don’t trust him as they should, and they pay a price

for it. But his grace will have the last word on their behalf — the triumph of his grace over their failure.

- **The fertile soil of trust**

Ahaz/Judah's Crisis (v.10-13)

Promise (v.14)

The Lord Himself will give you a sign... virgin birth!

- **Behold: unique word, significant for us as believers!**
 - To look and in direction one's attention to something or someone that is of greater significance
 - Ahaz says, "I'll bring in an **army!**" God says, "I'll bring in a **child!**"
 - He is with us, & He is God!

Humble Origins (v.15)

Matthew 1 connection

Matthew 1:9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Matthew 1:19–25 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"*

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Parallels - more than just a quote

<i>Isaiah 7</i>	<i>Matthew 1</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Ahaz / Juda's Crisis</i>- <i>God's Promise via prophecy</i>- <i>Humble Origins</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Joseph's Crisis</i>- <i>Promise via Angelic Dream</i>- <i>Humble Origins</i>

Note: fear not. Exposure of where our confidence lies...

How does God's Word help cultivate that kind of trust? Consider this redemptive overview of God moving toward us as His people...

Biblical overview: Gen 1³; communion with God, broken by sin → Ex 3; I AM with you → IS 7 (Immanuel, God With Us) → Matt 1; God With Us in flesh, proven in History, miracle of the sign →

Luke 2 connection (transition)

Luke 2:10 *And the angel said to them, "**Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.***

The word "Joy" here, in the angel's proclamation is translated chara, it is a deep, spiritual truth that produces this kind of rejoicing, not merely an external, or circumstantial happiness

● Joy is the fruit that grows

Galatians 5:22 chara (joy)

Galatians 5:22–23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy (CHARA!), peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

God with us (yesterday, today and tomorrow) is a reminder of His Faithfulness and a promise to remind us that one day soon... we will be with Him for all eternity because of Christ.

“Christmas is not about pretending that everything is great and we don’t struggle or suffer. Christmas is about acknowledging that sometimes things are not great and we do struggle and suffer, even at Christmas—and that God knows this, God hears us, and God has got involved for us.

You live in a world that has been visited by its Maker. God showed up. God didn’t send Moses. God came himself. That’s how committed he is to your good. And when you see him that way and see this world that way, it changes how you walk through the hard times and how you celebrate Christmas.”¹

→ **Luke 2; fear not, good news of great joy (chara)** → **Gal 5:22; Fruit of the Spirit**
→ ← **Ps 51; Joy of salvation (same hebrew word)**

“The way to experience the saving presence of God is to look at the gently flowing trickle of water called Jesus Christ and say, “I will stake my life on that supply, and I will never thirst again, no matter how long I am under siege.” The way to experience the saving presence of God is to look at the baby Jesus and say, “He will be my fiercest ally, and I will conquer, no matter what sin threatens me.”

The way to experience the saving presence of God in your crisis right now is to say yes to the improbable ways of God.

The first business of our lives is to learn what it means to stop trying to save ourselves and venture all on God. He saves sinners. So be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint. “God with us” is more than a name. He is a reality. And when you lean on him as your reality, what more do you need?²

● **Consider in application:**

- What are ways that you are choosing dismay or hand-wringing over trusting God?
- In daily experience do you know Christ as “with you”?
- How is/was He “with you” today?
- How will he be with us in the elements of life?
- Are you tempted to seek the human way out of your problem?
- What fruit is the soil of your life producing? In yourself? Toward others?

¹ Chandler, Matt. An Even Better Christmas: Joy and Peace That Last All Year.

² Ortlund Jr., Raymond C.. Isaiah: God Saves Sinners (Preaching the Word) (p. 92). Crossway.