

Prophecy and the Lord's Birth

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November 26, 2023

We explored the theme of glory and its significance during the Christmas season. The focus was on the Christmas prophecy given to Ahaz in Isaiah 7. Facing external troubles, Ahaz turns to Assyria, a formidable power known for its destructive conquests, reflecting the tendency to let visible challenges dominate our thoughts.

Isaiah intervenes, assuring Ahaz that the Lord will safeguard Judah. Despite Ahaz's reluctance to seek a sign, Isaiah provides a prophecy emphasizing divine intervention transcending worldly troubles. The mention of a virgin conceiving and bearing a son, named Immanuel, points to a profound revelation of God's humanity – a central aspect of the Christmas story.

We are invited to reflect on glory as an illuminated, visible, and shining presence. This divine light, akin to a guiding banner in the dark, calls us to seek God's glorious resting place, underscoring the universal significance of trusting in the Lord's love and power.

The story of Ahaz serves as a cautionary tale against choosing the path of hell, emphasizing the necessity of God incarnating as a human for redemption. The call to ask for a sign is a reminder of our dependence on the Lord's guidance rather than relying on our flawed understanding.

Exploring glory further, the angels in heaven perceive it as divine truth. This truth, shining like a spotlight, illuminates our understanding of the Christmas story and our connection to the Lord. The invitation is extended to quiet ourselves, acknowledging the Lord's constant presence and love. In moments of struggle, seeking a sign becomes an act of recognizing the glory of the Lord's humanity.

We can be encouraged to embrace the Christmas season with a profound understanding of glory – the divine light that guides us through challenges, revealing God's eternal love and presence in our lives.