

Sunday Morning 12-2-18 Pastor Elshout

Pre-service Psalter 431: 1, 4 (standing)

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 92: 1, 8

Reading of the Law: Deuteronomy 5:1-24

Response to the Law: Psalter 337: 3, 4

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7:1-14; Mat. 1:18-25

Congregational Prayer

Psalter 3: 1-3 (offering)

Text: Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah's Initial Prophecy Concerning the Messiah

1. Its historical context

2. Its remarkable content

3. Its rich comfort

Prayer

Psalter 425: 1, 3 (offering)

Doxology: Psalter 196

Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

1*. Why did the devil try so hard to get rid of the house of David?

2. What encouragement is there today in the words of the Lord GOD in verse 7: "It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass"?

3. Why was Ahaz' refusal to ask the LORD for a sign both hypocritical and wicked? What parallel is there between the way unbelievers use the Scriptures to excuse their unbelief?

4. How are the circumstances under which God gives the gospel promise of verse 14 similar to those under which God gave the first gospel promise in Gen. 3:15?

5. Why is Matthew's quotation of Isaiah 7:14 of such crucial importance for our correct understanding of this text?

6. Why does the virgin birth of Jesus constitute one of the fundamental components of the gospel and God's redemptive purpose?

7. The Virgin would bear as son. How was this fulfilled in a two-fold fashion when Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem's manger?

8*. Why does the name "Immanuel" help us understand what the gospel is all abo

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Pre-service Psalter 432: 1, 3 (standing)

Silent Congregational Prayer

Votum and Salutation

Psalter 399:3, 4

Scripture Reading: Jonah 3 & 4

The Nicene Creed

Congregational Prayer

Psalter 394: All (offering)

Text: Jonah 4:6-11

God Has the Last Word in Jonah's Life

1. Revealed in His dealings with Jonah

2. Revealed in His questioning of Jonah

3. Revealed in His rebuke of Jonah

Prayer

Psalter 329:1, 2, 4 (offering)

Doxology: Psalter 197

Benediction

Family Sermon Discussion Questions:

1. What is the dramatic difference between Jonah's disposition toward Nineveh and the LORD's disposition toward Nineveh?
- 2*. How did Jonah draw a wrong conclusion from the fact that the LORD provided a gourd for him?
3. Why is it significant that five times we read that the LORD specifically prepares something for Jonah: 1) a great wind (1:4), 2) a fish (1:17), 3) a gourd (4:6), 4) a worm (4:7), and 5) a vehement east wind (4:8)?
4. How is the gourd symbolic of the many blessings we enjoy in this life? Why does God at times send "worms" to cause our gourds to wither?
5. In verse 8, Jonah resigns for the third time. Why does that make God's *gracious* dealings with Jonah all the more remarkable?
6. What does God intend to accomplish by asking Jonah the question, "Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd?"
7. Why was Jonah's pity for the gourd such a serious indictment against him?
- 8*. What can we learn about the gracious character of God from verse 11

* Questions for younger children