

This dependence on God does not mean that we sit idly by as the troubles progress. He may have already given us a number of items to "do" and we are surely to exercise such gifts and skills as he has provided. But these are not to be a substitute for his power and will.

b. God is not limited by our means.

Consider the case in our text. The king and the people can only think of armed intervention after the pattern of their ability and history. God will send a child...he will prove the reality of God with us. This is a happy lesson in the practical realm. God sometimes delivers through means and measure that are totally unknown to us. I am not suggesting the frequency of miracles that some claim today..simply that we do not limit God by our own resources.

c. Obedience to God's will is the answer to our deliverance.

This is not so much a passive matter as an active matter of dependence on His grace and will. We do first what he tells us to do. The problem with Ahab involved a wicked alliance and compromise of the integrity of Jehovah. Having disobeyed once, he continues to disobey in refusing to ask for the sign. With such an attitude there is little likelihood that he could not God's deliverance. Note that he did receive a particular kind of help. The Assyrians did come...but in the long run their help ruined the king and the kingdom.

d. In his time, God does deliver.

We do well to keep up to date on the lessons of history where this is spelled out for us. It is encouraging to see the predictions of deliverance in the Word and see how they are carried out in the lives of God's people. His hand does not fail but it is in his appointed time and manner.

3. Let us note then, very simply, that deliverance is by God...and let us be patient for it.