

own hope. Today our hope continues to be in the work of Christ and in his promised coming. Belief in that promise is not a guessing game. It is a recognition of what God has done in fulfilling his word in time past. In that recognition we find the confirmation of our hope. So we fill our minds with the Lord's promise and it inspires us in his will.

b. The Lord's Promise is centered in His Coming .

This is what the nation would await: the triumphant shout "Immanuel". It may have seemed insignificant to Ahaz but the true Judean would look for the promised child. Simeion and Anna saw him as a youth and quickly recognized the truth that redemption had come (God showed them this, of course, but they were devoutly waiting and expecting to see it.)

We like to note that while the promise was centered in the coming, the people of God were not expected to sit idly by waiting that moment. They, like Ahaz, were to be given to the sort of obedient action which we mentioned in an earlier section.

c. The Lord's Promise is certain to those who trust.

It does not make much difference here whether we are talking about the overthrow of the Assyrians or going to heaven. Trust and yieldedness to the Divine Will are the essential ingredients and the Lord's promise is certain to those...certain, that is, to provide for them the good things that God will share with His people. His plan will be fulfilled whether we trust or not, but as noted earlier, if we do not trust there is much in the way of practical blessing and good that we lose.

3. It comes to be very important that we understand clearly what the Lord has promised. This is as true today as in the days of Isaiah. If we understand this then it becomes our hope. We may review some of these things orally but as a parting note, this is very important: Our hope is the Lord's promise.