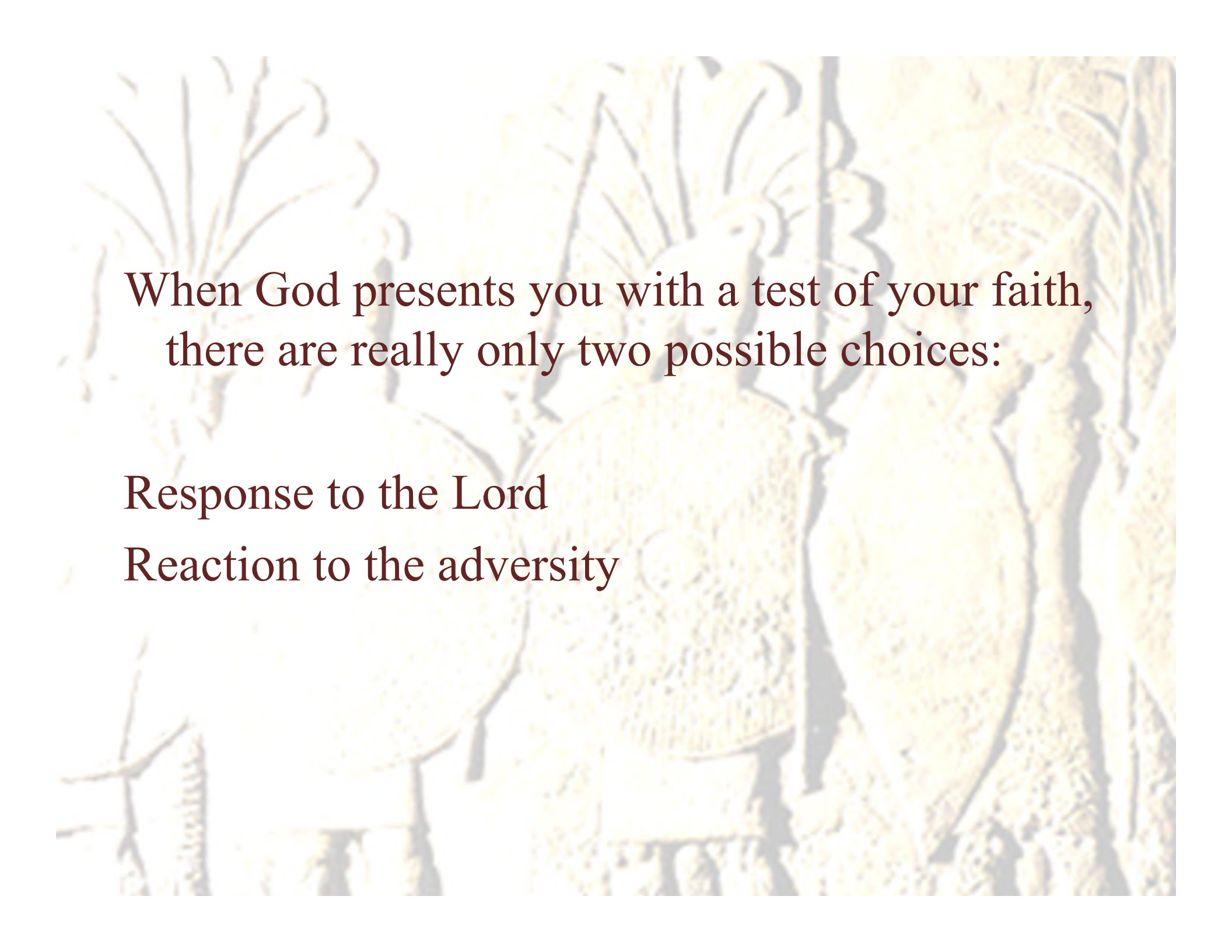




When the Good News is Bad News

Isaiah 7-8: IMMANU EL



When God presents you with a test of your faith,
there are really only two possible choices:

Response to the Lord

Reaction to the adversity

Immanence

- God is everywhere present within creation, sustaining it by His presence yet unconfused with it.”
- 1 Ki 8:27
- Jer 23:23-24
- Ps 139:7-8
- Acts 17:28
- Col 1:16-17
- Heb 1:3



1 Kings 8:27

Solomon's Prayer at the Dedication of the Temple

27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!

The background of the slide features a faded, golden-brown image of ancient stone carvings. The carvings depict several human figures, possibly deities or royalty, with large, ornate headdresses and intricate patterns on their clothing. The figures are shown in profile, facing right, and are set against a light, textured background.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

“Am I a God who is near,” declares the Lord,

“And not a God far off?

“Can a man hide himself in hiding places

So I do not see him?” declares the Lord.

“Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?”
declares the Lord.



Ps 139:7-8

7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there;
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

Acts 17:27

24 “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;

26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, **though He is not far from each one of us;**

28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’



Col 1:16-17

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Heb 1:3

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Key Thoughts about Immanence

1. If *immanence* expresses God's presence in creation, then *transcendence* expresses God's separation in nature and substance from creation.
2. To overemphasize immanence is to promote pantheism or panentheism, two pagan conjectures about God.
3. To overemphasize transcendence is to promote a deistic approach to our relationship with God.
4. We have this doctrine for our encouragement in rapport with God.

The Prophecy of Immanu El

A: 7:1-9: Prophecy in the “indicative” with promise about invasion of Rezin and Pekah and warning regarding unbelief and destruction.

B: 7:10: **YASAPH** formula, the LORD to Ahaz

C: 7:11-25: Prophecy in sign form, specifically judgment for unbelief is prophesied—Immanu El—and the fulfillment of the promise concerning Rezin and Pekah

C’: 8:1-4: Prophecy in sign form, fulfillment of promise regarding Rezin and Pekah

B’: 8:5: **YASAPH** formula, the LORD to Isaiah

A’: 8:6-10: Prophecy in “indicative”—Destruction with Immanu El explained

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The Lesson of Isaiah 7-8

1. The near-term threat is an attention-getter from the Lord.
2. Disbelief in His promise and forcing our own human solutions contrary to Revelation brings greater misery.
3. The fact of God's presence and your relationship to Him is always a cause for confidence and contentment.
4. But how will you know that He is with you? Voices? Special designs in pita bread? A special "sense" of His presence?
5. In Isaiah, you know because of Revelation.
6. How is God revealing Himself today?