



The Sign of Immanuel | Isaiah 7:1-17

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In Isaiah 7:14, in the midst of a national crisis for the Jewish people, God promised the coming of one who would be called Immanuel (God with us). In dark and difficult times, we, like the people of Judah, often wish for escape. We want God to change our circumstances and fix our problems. But what He has promised instead is better: that even in our darkest hours, God is still with us, and that is enough.

Matthew 1:18-25 – The birth of Jesus would fulfill God’s promise from Isaiah 7:14 of a son who would be called Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

Setting of Isaiah:

- **Approximately 740 BC**
- **The Jewish people are divided in two nations: Israel to the north and Judah to the South. Isaiah has been sent to prophesy to Judah.**
- **The Assyrian Empire is on the march, taking over smaller countries.**
- **Israel has partnered with Syria (not Assyria) to form a defensive alliance.**
- **Israel and Syria want to force Judah into their alliance (7:1).**

Isaiah 7:1-9 – The Lord promised that Syria and Israel would not defeat Judah.

Isaiah 7:10-11 – The Lord commanded Judah’s King Ahaz to ask for a confirming sign, but Ahaz did not believe the word of the Lord and refused to ask.

Isaiah 7:12-17 – Despite the disobedience of Ahaz, God gave the sign of Immanuel: a sign that was fulfilled first in Ahaz’s day, and ultimately in the birth of Jesus Christ.

2 Samuel 7:16 – 300 years before Ahaz, God promised to establish the throne of David forever.

Jesus Christ will come as the all-powerful, conquering ruler to defeat His enemies. But, until then, God’s people have the promise of a Savior, who saves us from our sin, who is Immanuel, God with us.

Questions to Consider

1. When was the last time you felt like you were in a dark place? What did you most think you needed to get out of that place and to feel better?
2. Read what the Lord said to Judah's King Ahaz in Isaiah 7:4. Armies were preparing to descend on Judah to conquer it, and yet how did God command Judah to respond, and why?
3. The Lord wants to encourage His people with His promises. Do you seek out His promises in troubling times? If so, how?
4. God promises to guard His people and be with them in difficult times. Have you ever been like Ahaz – looking for some other escape because you were not trusting in the Lord to guard you through painful circumstances?
5. What is the importance of promises like those in Revelation that Jesus will come as a mighty and conquering King?
6. When you are in difficult times, do you thank Jesus for saving you from your sins?
7. How will you rest in the promise of Immanuel, God with us, the next time you face trouble or temptation?