

Immanuel, God With Us

Throughout our search for our King, we've returned again and again to Jesus' words after his resurrection in **Luke 24**:

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the _____ have spoken! Was it

not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning _____. (24:25-27)

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be _____." (24:44)

Hundreds of years before Jesus of Nazareth lived, died, and came out of the grave, God inspired a variety of prophets who foretold who the Christ would be and what he would accomplish. **Isaiah** is one of the most well-known of those prophets. He was led by the Holy Spirit to speak up for God during a very dark time in Israel's history. "They have rebelled against me," the LORD lamented in **Isaiah 1:2-4**. "Israel does not know, my people do not understand."

But in **Isaiah 6:1-8**, Isaiah experienced an incredible vision. "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up." As Isaiah readily confesses his unworthiness to appear before God's throne, his guilt is taken away and he is commissioned as a spokesman for God to the descendants of Abraham. But what would God communicate through Isaiah to this "sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly" (1:4)?

In the very next chapter, God made an incredible promise:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a _____, and shall call his name _____. (7:14)

Only God could make and fulfill such an amazing promise, and he did, in **Matthew 1:18-25**. In fact, a direct connection is made by Matthew to Isaiah's 700-year-old prophecy:

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, _____). (Matt 1:22-23)

Everything written about the Christ in the Prophets—including **Isaiah 7**—is fulfilled in Jesus.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ If things were as bad in Israel as God describes in [Isaiah 1:1-4](#), why didn't he just give up on all of them?
- ▶ How would you describe in your own words the incredible things Isaiah sees in [Isaiah 6:1-4](#)?
- ▶ Why do you think Isaiah responded the way that he did in [Isaiah 6:5](#)?
- ▶ No doubt, God uses Isaiah to foretell some very dark and difficult things to come over the course of more than 60 chapters. But why is it very good news that he basically starts with the “**sign**” revealed in [Isaiah 7:14](#)?
- ▶ What does Matthew want to make sure we clearly understand in [Matthew 1:18](#)?
- ▶ Jesus would do many, many things. But according to the angel of the Lord in [Matthew 1:21](#), what would the heart of his mission be? What does this mean? What does Paul's description in [Galatians 4:4-7](#) add to our understanding?
- ▶ In your own words, what does it mean to “**fulfill**” a prophecy ([Matt 1:22](#))?
- ▶ In what way is Jesus “**God with us**” ([Matt 1:23](#))?

For NEXT Sunday:

- ▶ We'll examine the prophecy in [Isaiah 11](#) of “**a shoot from the stump of Jesse**” and its connection to Paul's message in [Acts 13](#): “**Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.**” What does it all mean? **We'll talk about it...**