

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Immanuel—God With Us


Part of the Isaiah Series



Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:23

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February 10, 2019

Immanuel—God With Us



BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND
BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME

Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14

God became one with us so that we might become one with Him

Immanuel—God With Us

Introduction:

- God became one with us so that we might become one with Him! That is the underlying theme of this 10-week Isaiah winter teaching series leading up to Easter season.
- Last week Joe gave us an introduction to the book as a whole and introduced us to the Immanuel prophecies found in Isaiah. God the Father was sending His Son to be with us in order to save us and restore the relationship between us and a holy God that had been broken because of our sin.
- We have to go back to the beginning to see how that relationship was broken and God's plan to fix the problem by sending a Redeemer—the Messiah.

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Introduction (cont.):

- He was first mentioned in Gen. 3:15 as the “Seed” (singular, pointing to the Son of God) that would defeat the serpent who deceived Adam and Eve (Satan).
- The “highway of the Seed” (Scofield) can be traced from that beginning: Abel, Seth, Noah (Gen. 6:8-10), Shem (Gen. 9:26-27), Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4), Isaac (Gen. 17:19-21), Jacob (Gen. 28:10-14), Judah (Gen. 49:10), David (2 Sam. 7:5-17), and then Immanuel-Christ (Isa. 7:10-14; Matt. 1:1,20-23; John 12:31-33; 1 John 3:8).

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Introduction (cont.):

- To understand Isaiah's prophecy of Immanuel in 7:14, we need to understand a few things about biblical prophecy.
- First, the OT prophets pictured Christ as coming in humiliation and also glory, but failed to see the interval of time between those two advents (present church age).
- Secondly, prophecies usually had an immediate historical fulfillment and also a future fulfillment. We see that in our passage today: a fulfillment in Isaiah's time (the birth of his new son, Isa. 8:8,10) as well as the promised future Messiah—Immanuel (Isa. 7:14).
- We will only focus on the future fulfillment today.

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Introduction (cont.):

- It will also be necessary to know the historical context of the Immanuel prophecy. In the previous chapter 6 when King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw the Lord, he saw himself, and then he saw the need. God was on the throne (even if Uzziah wasn't), and God called and commissioned Isaiah for his prophetic work.
- Now in chapter 7 we next see Isaiah taking his first son Shear-jashub (“The remnant shall return”) and meeting not with Uzziah’s son Jotham but his grandson Ahaz. Thus many years (20?) have elapsed and there has been much political intrigue going on. (Isa. 7:1-9)

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Introduction (cont.):

- Ahaz is inspecting the water system of Jerusalem since he was expecting a siege of Judah by a coalition of the northern tribes of Israel and Syria. Isaiah brings word from God not to fear them for they will be destroyed by Assyria, but Judah will be spared for now.
- He tells Ahaz to ask for any sign to prove that this was true and God would do it. Ahaz piously refuses to ask for a sign and “weary God” (in reality he was getting ready to empty the treasury to pay for Assyria to help Judah).
- Because he refused to give a sign, Isaiah said he would give him a miraculous sign from God. (Isa. 7:10-13)

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Body of Lesson:

And what was that miraculous sign?

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

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- Whenever Isaiah starts out by saying “behold” it introduces something related to future events. Who is “the virgin”? In Hebrew there are two possible words to designate a virgin:
 - (1) *bethulah*, who is a young girl, living at home but not of marriageable age, and
 - (2) *almah*, who is also a young maiden but of marriageable age and, most importantly, who has kept herself chaste; she has never known a man sexually.
- This is the word (*almah*) used for “virgin” in our text. Also note that it is *the* virgin, looking ahead to the ultimate fulfillment by the virgin Mary.

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- But how can the virgin conceive if she has never had sexual relations with a man? Dr. Luke (who should know about these things!) explains this to us in Luke 1:26-38. It is really pretty simple (if God is involved)! Essentially:
“³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, “*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:34-35)
- It takes a miracle that by faith you need to believe!

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- Yes, we are talking miraculous. It might technically be possible (by parthenogenesis) for a female to give birth without a male, but the offspring could only be female (double YY chromosomes).
- To give birth to a male child there must be a sperm (Greek word for “seed”) carrying the male XY chromosome.
- The miracle is the Holy Spirit bringing the “seed of David”, fertilizing the egg of Mary with that seed, and implanting that fertilized egg in the womb of the virgin Mary.
- For the next 9 months you don’t need a miracle—you just wait for the birth of that Holy One, the Son of God, God with us, Immanuel!

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- There is an interesting passage in Gal. 3:13-16 that has to do with this miraculous male “seed”.

“¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man’s covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your Seed,” who is Christ.”

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- The birth of Isaac to aged Abraham (100) and Sarah (90) was an OT miracle, and their offspring (Abraham's Seed) produced King David and his seed (including Joseph, Matt. 1:1,16).
- Likewise the NT miracle of the birth of Jesus was miraculous because the Holy Spirit provided the "Seed of David" to Mary's womb to fertilize her egg, not her husband Joseph.
- Thus a male child would be born for the purpose of dying and redeeming us from the curse of the law. That male Child was God with us (Immanuel) who became one with us in order that we might become one with God.

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One unplanned pregnancy saved us all.



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- The only other reference to Immanuel is found in Matthew’s gospel (Matt. 1:23). The spelling “Immanuel” comes from the original Hebrew text. It is often spelled “Emmanuel” (KJV) which comes from the Greek translation of the original Hebrew text (the Septuagint) used for the NT. Note: Not all translations today keep this distinction.
- Here is the complete context from Matthew:

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“¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

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²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”
²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,
²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.”

(Matt. 1:18-25, NKJV)

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THE VIRGIN WILL BE WITH CHILD
AND WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON,
AND THEY WILL CALL HIM

Immanuel

WHICH MEANS,

God with us.

MATTHEW 1:23

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- So why go to all this trouble to have a miraculous birth by the virgin?
- So we could have God with us—our Immanuel, who came as the incarnate deity (God clothed Himself in human flesh) not just to be one with us but so that we could be one with Him!
- And how is this possible? It is all in the name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. They named Him after His Father!
- They called Him Joshua (English = Joseph). The original full form is Jehoshua, meaning “Yahweh our salvation” or “Yahweh saves”. “JESUS saves”!

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- Our sin has separated us from a holy God. The relationship He created us to have with Him has been broken, and there is nothing we can do to fix it.
- So God acted—because He loves the world (and us) so much He sent His Son to save the world by dying for their sins so they wouldn't have to die (be separated from Him eternally, John 3:16).
- Only as a man could God die. In fact, He was born in order to die! In saving us, Jesus Christ (Messiah) lived up to His title Immanuel. He became one with us so that we might once again be one with Him, and not be separated for all eternity.

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- Have you ever had your sins taken away, atoned for, pardoned and been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Immanuel?
- If you have been redeemed (bought with a price) and saved, has that made a difference in the way you live now?
- 1 Cor. 6:19-20 says this: “¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
- He came to be one with us so that we might become one with Him. We can only do this as we recognize His lordship in our lives and submit to Him!

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- What does it mean to become one with Him? He identified with our humanity (pain, suffering, fear, poverty, rejection, ridicule, shame, temptation and loneliness) so that we can identify with Him.
- Certainly this begins while we are here on earth for as many years He allows us to have. We can claim His promises to fear not, to trust and be encouraged by the God of all comfort, to know He is with us as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, and that He was tempted just as we are and so we can live victorious lives knowing that He is with us by means of His Holy Spirit!

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- But being with Him now is just the beginning! We have read the final chapter of His book, the Bible, and we know that we will be with Him and like Him (we will get new resurrected bodies) for all eternity!
- The anticipation of what that will be like far surpasses any momentary affliction that He allows for us. “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17). Right now God is just preparing us to be like His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and our Immanuel.
- As we draw near to Him now in our times of difficulty, this prepares us to spend an eternity with Him. He became one with us so that we may be eternally one with Him!

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Application:

Three questions:

1. Has God become one with you?

This requires acknowledging that you are a sinner, and asking God to save you.

2. Have you become one with God?

This requires recognizing the truth that God now lives in you by means of the Holy Spirit.

3. Has this made a difference in your life?

Understanding the presence of God with us, and us with God, both now and for eternity, should completely change us!