

Summary of the Message Based on Immanuel in Isaiah 7 and 8

Review of last week: Two main themes in Isaiah (and the Bible more generally):

1. God's righteous judgment of sin results in agonizing removal from His presence ("exile")
2. God's gracious redemption of sin results in joyous, comforting return ("home-coming")

We noticed that theme 2 prevails in Isaiah 40-66 but it is also peppered throughout Isaiah 1-39. Part of that redemptive peppering we saw in chapter 35, just read, and will see today in the Immanuel child of chapters 7-8. (Clarification: 1 and 2 can be manifest at the same time, as in chapters 7-8 and when Christ returns in the future.)

What can we learn from the Immanuel passages about the Lord's coming?

1. The virgin birth of Isaiah 7 had a prior fulfilment in Isaiah's day. It was partly fulfilled first when *a virgin at the time of the giving of the prophecy* would bear a royal son named Immanuel, "God with us." It was ultimately fulfilled later when *a virgin at the time of conception* bore a royal son named Immanuel; He alone met the supernatural and global criteria for Immanuel that is unpacked in part already in chapter 8:8,10 and fully in 9:1-7, 11:1-10.

Two lessons:

- a. General: God's Word spoke to people who lived in ancient times as well as in the time of Jesus and later (shepherd-like, multi-tasking time-wise);
 - b. Specific: "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all" (7:9b) [Theologically speaking, Faith recognizes the dependability of God and His Word and that God is in control, both to bring judgment where appropriate, and salvation where sin is forgiven and faith abides; practically speaking, v. 9a reminds us that God intervenes by bringing saving light from darkness.]
2. Like a snowball that grows as it rolls down a hill, the child promised of a virgin has become already by chapter 8 Lord of the land and a sign of God's presence (for both judgment and deliverance). (*We shall soon see more growth in chapters 9 and 11, to the point where the Messiah is a divine deliverer who brings peace and righteousness throughout the world.*)

Lessons:

- a. The prophecy of a birth, spoken of a virgin, awaits ultimate fulfillment in another royal son, yet to be born.
- b. Recalling "God with us" brings not only a sobering reminder of divine judgment, but, for the redeemed of the Lord, hope, peace, and comfort!

Conclusion