

Immanuel: *The Gift of Hope*

Isaiah 7:1-17; Matthew 1:23

The Setting (v. 1-2)

- Ahaz is the king of Judah (Southern Kingdom)
 - From the line of David
 - c. 735 BC
- Aram and Israel come to make war against Judah
- Ahaz and the people fear for the safety of Jerusalem (v. 2b)

The Message (v. 3-9)

- Isaiah and his son go to meet Ahaz at the Washer's Field (v. 3)
 - Shear-Jashub: "A remnant will return"
 - Washer's Field: city water system
- The Lord assures Ahaz that his enemies will fail
 - As long as he trusts in the Lord (v. 9b)

The Sign (v. 10-14)

- The Lord tells Ahaz to ask for a sign of His faithfulness
 - Ahaz feigns piety and refuses (v. 11-12)
- God scolds Ahaz and gives him a double-edged sign
 - Immanuel: "God [is] with us"

Immanuel (v. 14-17)

- The sign has 2 fulfillments (v. 14)
- Immediate fulfillment: "This young woman" (*Ha'alma*)
 - Isaiah's 2nd son, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (Isa. 8)
 - This child will act as a reminder that God is with the Davidic line ◦ 12-13 years later (v. 15-16)
 - Result: Aram & Israel will be destroyed (c. 722 BC)
 - But at the hands of Assyria, who will subject Judah
- Ultimate fulfillment: "The *virgin*" (*hā parthenos*)
 - A miracle: This child will be God with us
 - 700+ years later
 - Result: God becomes a man (John 1:14)
- One meaning: God will keep His promise to David (2 Sam. 7:12-14a) ◦ Giving God's people the gift of hope
- Matthew saw what God did through Isaiah as a foreshadow of Christ ◦ Typology—

So What?

- Jesus is God's gift of hope
 - He is our constant reminder that God is with us
- We can trust Him because He keeps His promises

Meditation Verse: *Matthew 1:23*