

“Jesus is Immanuel (God With Us)”

I. INTRODUCTION

It’s the roaring 20s and people are rejecting God and walking away from their faith.

In the midst of this my Great Grandmother Lillian Baechler sat in a kitchen in 1925...in Runnemede NJ just one of five women

- they were praying for God to move on their children, on their neighbors.
- the Holy Spirit impresses this in prayer... there are no evangelical churches in their area
- They write a letter
- Silas Daughtery, Superintendent of Home Missions of the Eastern Pennsylvania Synod - United Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia, Pa. comes across the Delaware river to meet with these ladies along with Rev William Wescott

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded as a result right there



thirty-six charter members on November 28, 1926. And church stood up in through the depression that still stands today!

- My mom was saved and disciplined there,
 - as were her brothers and sisters.
- So was I and so was my brother.
 - We are all serving the Lord today

And why... because of five moms praying in a dingy kitchen in south Jersey

So why the story

because of the confidence in the Word of God I gained there that still is fanned into flame today

from my mom

from my grandmother Flora too

And the just mentioned great grandmother

This morning, we want to offer you that same self-assurance

That you can have confidence in the word of God - -

That the GREAT I AM saw you

Not only saw you but long before Mary and Joseph desired to flip script

We want to get provide you some confidence

- ... so let's get to the setting of our theme this Christmas - Immanuel God With us!

Matthew records this exchange



Yep that is the front of a Christmas Card

- With the theme for this season right there with this very story telling graphic!

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.” Matthew 1:22-23

This quote is shared around every Christmas season...

- Yes on Christmas cards
- in services
- in carols
- and today... hopefully within your hearts and minds

All in reference to the birth of Jesus. The Messiah – GOD WITH US!

What is very cool about the Bible is the synergy from front to back

and back to front!!! With this exact theme that GOD IS WITH US!



“the Angel of Lord” shares this statement the from the prophet Isaiah with Joseph the unsung hero of the Christmas story

– the Angel of the Lord

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Joseph. But, given the glimpses into his character we do have, we conclude that he was a humble man who cared deeply about obeying God.

And yet this Angel of the Lord – needs to reset this blue collar worker from Nazareth...

He is an honorable man as he is going to put away Mary quietly...

and after hearing this statement – in a dream mind you –

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.”

How does Joseph respond!? Matthew states simply that Joseph immediately obeyed

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25

For all us we need to realize that so much has happened before this Nativity story with Mary and then Joseph getting visits from God’s messengers....

And we have to go back to the beginning with another prophecy penned by last week’s Sermon Subject – MOSES ... where he records this:

And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15

Matthew steps in to bring this prophecy into motion!

Matthew strives to offers a narrative to accomplish his most important goal!

- What was his Goal?
 - To prove to every Jew that Jesus is the Messiah.
 - To GIVE JESUS THE PEDIGREE from the OLD TESTAMENT.

If you are Jewish, you surely embrace this approach to ensure that the said person meets all of the requirements!

- Right now Olivia Phillips at Georgia Technical Institute, is working on becoming Doctor Phillips and in that a thesis must be drafted and accepted
- Mathew with his thesis has something for us, that is truly hard to argue against!

Here in 2024, we need to balance the approach of Matthew alongside the life application approach of Luke!

It is Like looking at a diamond from all of the edges and not just one perspective!

as the light refracts differently with colors ever changing as you move from one angle to the next of the same precious jewel!

For when we compare these accounts the big picture is crystal clear!

When we discover this little baby,

- born of a teenage girl,

This Child, is none other than Immanuel, GOD WITH US!

- it should make your heart skip a beat.
 - Like looking into a priceless diamond, a treasure worth giving up everything for!

So let's really break all down, and where it is from - - - Immanuel God with us

I. GOD WITH US (IMMANUEL)

To understand the phrase Immanuel we have to ask where it comes from?

And maybe who it came from?

But who is Isaiah?

what was the call of his life?

And why would we want to connect Isaiah and his writings

to this wonderful season of the Birth of Jesus!?

First of all, Isaiah had vision!

A. ISAIAH HAS VISION

Isaiah, whose name means “Yahweh is salvation,” is best known for writing the book that bears his name in the Old Testament.

Isaiah’s name means – Yahweh is salvation!

- His writings are especially significant for the prophecies he made about the coming Messiah, hundreds of years before Jesus was born!

Matthew quotes Isaiah when describing the following!

- John the Baptist’s ministry (Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3),
- When Jesus moved to Galilee to start His ministry, Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled (Matthew 4:13-16; Isaiah 9:1-2).
- Matthew even captured Jesus quoting Isaiah’s prophecy when speaking in parables (Isaiah 6:9; Matthew 13:14-15),

Even Paul also makes reference to the same prophecy when he is in Rome as captured by Luke in Acts 28!

Even Jesus... as Luke records in Chapter 4,

**And imagine what it must have been like when Jesus picks up the scroll
and reads from Isaiah in the synagogue at Nazareth**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,
for the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released
and prisoners will be freed.[a]
2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn
that the time of the Lord’s favor has come,[b]
and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. **Isaiah 61:1-2**

What amazed and even offended, his Jewish friends, and neighbors

Was that Jesus Himself claimed the prophecy is fulfilled in their hearing!

Further background to Isaiah is that the Gospels quote more from Isaiah’s writings than from any other of the Old Testament prophets.

The Book of Isaiah has two major themes running throughout!

- Trust in the Holy one of Israel
- The Messiah to come and the glory of His age!

Isaiah is the most prolific prophet on the Messiah

SECONDLY – ISAIAH LIVED WITH HIS EYES SET ON GOD!

B. ISAIAH LIVED WITH HIS EYES SET ON GOD

Look at this Crisp and clear opening words of his book!

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
Isaiah 1:1

- Vision is singular, telling us that Isaiah is meant to keep his eyes fixed.
By doing just that... the Holy Spirit enabled him to record many prophecies
- And many contain visions about Jesus Christ.
 - These prophecies foretell events and details that Jesus Christ fulfilled.
 - 110 referring to His first coming to be exact!

For this morning lets return to our opening from Matthew 3

- And the resource for the quote by the Angel of the Lord!

we find Isaiah is interacting with King Ahaz of Judah in Chapter 7

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you[a] a sign: ***The virgin[b] will conceive and give birth to a son, and[c] will call him Immanuel.***[d] 15 He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, 16 for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. 17 The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.” Isaiah 7:10–17

King Ahaz is being addressed by the Lord!

- God promised he would defeat the kings from the north who threatened Ahaz’s kingdom,
 - Test God to see that his word is true.
- However, it becomes apparent that Ahaz is the one being tested.
 - Ahaz refuses to put the Lord to the test, but God still revealed a sign to him.

You have to truly love how God works!

Because in the midst of a circumstance of threats and dread for Judah and God’s children, God mentions a SIGN!

And in doing so - drops our nugget of the future!

The sign is “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

In the first thirty-seven chapters of Isaiah, we find many prophecies about the Messiah, the king in the line of David who would establish an eternal reign.

For example, in context to our messiah connection to this season!

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. Isaiah 9:6-7
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This prophecy is echoed in the angel Gabriel’s announcement to the young teenage virgin Mary that she will become pregnant and give birth to a child...



30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:30-33.

Make no mistake about it from Isaiah’s time to Mary’s time to this moment...

Jesus Christ is the promised king of whom Isaiah spoke off;

- the absolute fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy
 - “...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Is. 7:14).

Matthew and Luke both make this crystal clear in their account of Jesus’ miraculous conception!

Backing it up with true captures of references to these awesome messianic prophecies!

This provides the confidence you can have within the Word of God!

- To see the strengths and connections captured, over 1000s of years and where all is truly connected!

Pastor has mentioned this many times that we simply want you to be prepared with sound teachings and sharing of the word

- and not this crazy freight train of sensationalisms combating us from the scope of social media!
- There are tons of folks on YouTube TIKTOK and other streaming services right now giving bold end times predictions.

More often than not creating Distraction to move you off where you should be and what you should be doing!!!!

So how do we know someone is really a prophet?

Their prognostications 100% come true!

The more you are dividing your inputs across social media on sensational dramatic presentations and crazy predictions

the more you are distracted to be about the Father's business right where you are now!

I mention this to please be careful out there! As I said we want you all to gain confidence on what you believe.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

I believe ... Pastor believes that, today in 2024, we have the advantage...of the Word of God!

Each of us own and we hold a bound book,

- a collection of HIS-story... And as a result of HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD we have faith
- to embrace that Jesus is born of the virgin Mary and he is truly Immanuel, "God with us."

Here we can find security as these prophecies of a Messiah King in the line of David to a singularly point us to the birth of Christ!



Of the 330 prophecies about Jesus, the remaining 220 cover His Second Coming. The time when Christ will come again.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him” (Is. 11:1-2).

Jesse is, of course, the father of David.

Isaiah tells his listeners in Jerusalem that though Israel will be chopped down by the Assyrians (and later Judah by the Babylonians),

God will redeem this terrible event from the stump that remains where Jesus descended from!

So the question today is did God’s promise to David fail?

- No matter how dark the future may seem the Messiah will come.

This was true for Isaiah’s listeners and it is true for the church today.

- Jesus the Messiah, ascended to the right hand of the Father after his resurrection.

We, just like Isaiah’s audience in Jerusalem, are looking forward to the day when Christ will come.

In Revelation we learn from John using that same reference point that Isaiah offered that, “the Root of David, has conquered” (Rev. 5:5).

The Root of David came once, and He will return as the triumphant King in the glory of his victory!

I mentioned this with a brother recently that Jesus is returning. The Messiah, the King on a mighty white horse!

This second Messianic portrait Isaiah paints is quite different from the royal King and the triumphant Conqueror of the second coming isn't He!?

As we all know Isaiah describes a humble, suffering Servant, whom the reader will know by the herald sent before him:

Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,
"Clear the way through the wilderness
for the Lord!
Make a straight highway through the wasteland
for our God! Is. 40:3

Matthew tells us that that messenger, this announcer is none other than Jesus cousin...John the Baptist

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, 2 "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.[a]" 3 The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming!
Clear the road for him!' Matt. 3:2

John is the prophet who prepared the way by preaching a message of repentance and baptism because "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" !

What is truly remarkable about this is that very one that John the Baptist prepares the way for is a man, Jesus.

Matthew identifies Jesus with Yahweh, the eternal, self-existent, independent God of the Israelites.

In Isaiah's prophecies there are clues that the Messiah will be a figure who is in some sense both human and divine. **JESUS IS THE IMMANUEL GOD WITH US!**

This must have been intriguing to his original hearers,
as they heard that the divine Savior of God’s people would come not only as a
King and Conqueror, but as a Servant.

Isaiah also was in his time Beholding or looking forward to the Messiah!

C. BEHOLDING THE MESSIAH

As we meditate on the Messianic portraits found in Isaiah both today and in the
coming weeks,

We become like Isaiah; we become people who live life with eyes set on God.



Just like we
did last week during worship.... We can sing O Come Let Us Adore Him and
rightfully so, right!?

Make no mistake from Isaiah to the accounts of the Gospel writers,
it is made clear that Jesus Christ is the promised King, Servant, and Conqueror.

Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, I
have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will. And I know that I will
not be put to shame. Isaiah 50:7

Like Isaiah you too should set your face like stone... like FLINT!

looking for the Lord to work in your life so that you are not put to shame!

Jesus is the savior and as his followers we are urged to run the race with endurance set before us!!

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Heb. 12:1-2

As a true CHRIST-FOLLOWER our lives is to be lived with eyes set on Jesus our Immanuel!

Though these Messianic portraits found in Isaiah are each unique, they only depict one person: the God-man Jesus Christ.

The church today gazes back into the manger setting... a place where animals sheltered from the weather.

And in the midst of that moment Mary is cited for pondering all of these things in her heart. You too need to do the same.

From Isaiah to the Gospel, we need to look back to the bigger picture!

We need to look at the life, death and resurrection of the Servant; and forward to the return of the King as the Anointed Conqueror.

This reminds me of a song from my childhood in the 70s.

The King is coming
The King is coming
i just heard the trumpet
sounding
And now his face i see
The King is coming
The King is coming
Praise God He's coming for me!

(Gaither vocal band)

Our great hope as believers is not only that Christ came as a baby.... Not only that he died for our sins, not only he rise again and ascend to the right hand of the Father....

but that he will return one day to make all things new.

The KING IS COMING and praise God He is coming for me!

II. CLOSING

As we close.... And here we are in 2024

and as this year we celebrate our Immanuel can we also look forward to the return or our Conquering King!?

28 Have you never heard?
Have you never understood?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of all the earth.
He never grows weak or weary.
No one can measure the depths of his understanding.
29 He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.
30 Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.
31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:28-31

We live in the age of the Servant.

- Never forget that none of us here... are above the master!
- We are living a life as the apprentice and servant!

Look to be the like the Shepherds who had the confidence to go and tell everyone what you saw ...and spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

Look to be like Joseph who was obedient and protected Mary and Jesus as a servant of God and a pretty good husband and dad!!!

And even though we endure through the trials and temptations that come with life in a fallen world,

like Jesus we must be humble and even at times, suffering servants.

If want to truly serve and honor Jesus, we must become like him and even endure the rejections that come with the territory.

There is a saying that the cross always comes before the crown!

And as Isaiah prophesied long ago, the Master is returning.

You can have confidence with this!

Be ready and start this morning by reaching out for Immanuel – God with us!

In the meantime, we live by faith.

No matter how bleak things may be, one day we will see our Savior face to face and wear the crown of life!

Jesus is Immanuel GOD WITH US!