## Immanuel: God with Us

Read Isaiah 7:10-16

Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel - that is, God is with us. (Isaiah 7:14, NASB with center column note)

Based on what we've said over the last two days, how does this mysterious prophecy, spoken in a different era and situation, relate to Jesus Christ? What does it tell us about Him? Consider how the original prophecy points to the birth of Jesus:

- The phrasing of the announcement indicated that the birth should be considered a momentous event.
- An air of mystery would surround the identity of the child and his "virgin" mother.
- The Child's birth would be a tangible sign of God's loving intervention on behalf of His people.
- He would come at a time when God's people were in need and under serious threat.
- The Child would be given, not as a reward for their faith, but in spite of their unbelief. He would be given graciously and unilaterally by God. God's greatest gift would be totally undeserved.
- Even His name would be full of comfort and assurance: God with Us.
- The Child's birth and name were to persuade people not to trust in human resources but in God alone. His coming would bolster faith in God.
- The Child's coming would be tangible proof and an ongoing reminder that God keeps His promises.

Jesus' birth was the most momentous event in the history of our race. Though His coming was shrouded in mystery, and many of our questions about Him remain unanswered, we know that He is living proof of God's love and undeserved grace. He is God's clearest call to simple, life-giving faith. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is the ultimate embodiment of our Father's endless desire to be *God with Us*.

Listen & Sing: God with Us, Immanuel (from LNWhymns.com)

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