



December 24, 2023

***Ancient Words, Present Hope***  
***Immanuel***

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 7:14

**For Discussion and Reflection**

1. The context of this prophecy can be understood in 2 Chronicles 28-30, with special attention to chapter 28. Who is Ahaz as a man and king? What would it be like, as a believer, to live under his rule?
2. Take what you know about Ahaz and reread Isaiah 7-8. How does this context of a wicked king combined with invasion, weakness, and the threat of annihilation frame the prophecy? What does it tell you about God? What does it tell you about God's presence in your life during evil times?
3. Amid Ahaz's evil, God is preparing a righteous leader. Hezekiah, while not perfect, leads the people in obedience to the Lord, 2 Chronicles 29-31. When God provides godly leaders who follow the Lord in obedience, what should we conclude?
4. The immediate threat to Ahaz is the death of his children and the termination of the Davidic kingly line. What does this prophecy communicate about God's commitment to his promise? What does it communicate about God that over 700 years later a child is born in that Davidic line?
5. Isaiah gave his prophecy to Ahaz by the upper pool. It's an obscure prophecy that he probably didn't fully understand until he unpacks it in chapter nine. While initially the prophecy felt immediate, chapter nine expands it to its fuller meaning of an eternal king over all the world. Then chapter eleven builds on the global results of his child's rule. Meditate on the accomplishments of this child in chapter 11. What stands out to you?
6. Joseph and Mary were living under Roman rule. Their people were conquered and until Herod rebuilt the temple, they were unable to fully function as a nation before God. Suddenly they are given a child who would rescue them from their sins and eventually lead the world in righteousness. What did Immanuel mean to them?
7. Based on these prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus, where is God in your life today?