

Transforming Daily
“... Immanuel ...”
Isaiah 7:14

As with all prophecy, there are at least two parts. The first part is what I call the immediate fulfillment portion of the prophecy. The second part is what I call the not yet, but yet to be fulfilled portion of the prophecy. Many prophecies were given in light of the current events in which the prophecy was spoken, but had a second application as well.

This text is no different. There are at least two applicable parts to this prophecy. The immediate application I'll leave to your study. That has to do with who was Isaiah speaking to? When was Isaiah speaking? What was the occasion of Isaiah's prophecy? How was its immediate application to be interpreted with respect to the current events? Etc.

As for the yet to be fulfilled part of the prophecy, having already been fulfilled in relationship to our place in history, that application was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ through the virgin Mary. Isaiah understood all too well the words which he spoke. He understood that the words would be fulfilled in part for the king at that time, but also regarding the King of our time. Isaiah preached the coming of Jesus Christ as Son of God and Savior of the world.

Further, Isaiah understood what the name Immanuel (sometimes spelt Emmanuel) meant. He knew that it meant “God with us” or “God in our midst” or “God dwelling among us.” How could the name “Immanuel” find its fulfillment in the portion of prophecy to be fulfilled at Isaiah's prophesying? It's not that God wasn't among His people. But according to John 1:14, Immanuel appeared in the flesh – Jesus Christ. He walked with the disciples and talked with the disciples. They literally saw Him and handled Him. After His ascension, He sent the Holy Spirit who now lives within all who believe.

Do you believe? Do you trust the shed blood of Jesus Christ for your salvation? Is God real to you? The gospel is the “good news.” It is the message of Christmas, and the message of Christmas is Immanuel.