

Everything Points to Jesus: At Last, Noel!

Matthew 1:23

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.” ~ Matthew 1:23

1. At Last after all the Promises

- The prophet’s specific promise of the waited birth.
- The impossible brings possibility today

2. At Last through all the Hardships

- A son like us who understands our suffering.
- A son to lead us in God’s Kingdom.

3. At Last Immanuel

- God who cares enough to enter our lives.
- The Eternal Present of His Presence.

Week of December 18

Questions for Ohana

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Matthew 1:22-23

ICE BREAKER: What is your oldest or favorite Christmas decoration or tree ornament?

If you are able show the video on Jesus being born in Bethlehem. Try the link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjQDI95tOcU>

A. *Read Isaiah 7:1-9

Like much of Biblical prophecy Isaiah gives prophecy for the moment and for the future. Syria and Israel had joined forces to attack Judah. Wicked king Ahaz of Judah was shaking in his sandals when the prophet Isaiah spoke from the Lord. He cautions the king, “If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” (Isaiah 7:9)

This Christmas, are there ways in which you feel under attack? Where is God telling you to stand firm in your faith?

B. Read Isaiah 7:10-17

Ahaz had allied himself with Assyria and would not accept God’s gracious offer to come under His Sovereign protection by asking for a sign. Despite the world’s opposition and human unbelief, God would still give the future sign of the coming Messiah. Verse 14 points forward 700 years to Jesus’ birth. Verse 15 gives an immediate sign by describing Isaiah’s son, Shear-Jashub (verse 3- meaning “the remnant shall return”) to describe the soon and devastating consequences of Ahaz trusting in Assyria and her gods and not the Lord Almighty.

How do you show that God is the center of your celebrations? In what ways have you seen “God with us” this Christmas?

PRAY for the powerful presence of God in your coming week.