

The Advent of Love

Various Texts

The Promise of Joy (Isa 7:10-17)

- Ahaz: The king of Judah from David's line
- The Lord encourages Ahaz that He will not abandon His promise to David (v. 13)
 - God's love for David and His people is the cornerstone of the Davidic covenant (2 Sam 7; Ps 18:50)
- The sign: A child
 - Born to an alma: a young woman of marriageable age
 - Likely Isaiah's wife (see Isa 8:3)
 - The child will be *called* "Immanuel" ("God with us")
 - It is not his name, but a title
 - His birth will signal both the fall of Ahaz's enemies and the coming of the Assyrians (v. 15-25)
- However, this child is not the final fulfilment of God's promise to show David & His people His covenant love
 - That will come with another child

Love in Christ's First Advent (Mt 1:18-25)

- Matthew's recounting of Jesus' birth emphasizes Joseph as part of the Davidic line
- Jesus is the culmination of God's promise of Immanuel
- God promised to destroy the threat His people
 - Original: God dealt with the enemies of Judah via Assyria
 - In Jesus: God destroys sin, the ultimate threat to His people (Mt 1:21)
- The sign will be a child
 - Original: A young woman (*alma*) became pregnant
 - In Jesus: A virgin (*parthenos*) supernaturally became pregnant
- Immanuel
 - Original: The child will be a reminder of God's presence with His people
 - In Jesus: The child is God incarnate, who has come to be with His people
- Covenant Love
 - Original: God shows His love through saving the Davidic king from His enemies
 - In Jesus: The final Davidic king has come, who will fulfill all of God's promises

Love for the Present

- Jesus continues to show us His love dwelling with us through His Spirit
 - He is still Immanuel (Rom 5:5)
- The Spirit also works His love *through* us (Gal 5:22-23a)

Love for the Future

- When Jesus returns, He will fully establish His kingdom reign
 - Ruling with love and justice for eternity (Isa 16:5)

So What?

- Jesus is God's gift of love. He is God with us
- Are we letting His love shine through us?

Meditation Verse: *Matthew 1:23*