Immanuel Means God Has Moved In December 24, 2023

*Ezekiel 37:24-28 Series: God With Us at Christmas*

All human beings should try to learn, before they die, what they are running from, and to, and why. – James Thurber

Intro: A father pleads with his son

1. Immanuel is the one you should follow
2. Others had divided them, the servant king would unite them

v. 24 *My servant David shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd.*

v. 25 *David my servant shall be their prince forever.*

Luke 1:32 *the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David*

Philippians 2:4-5 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus …*

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

John 17:21 *that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us*

1. We submit to Christ’s rule by faith through His covenant

v. 26 *I will make a covenant of peace with them.*

v. 26 *It shall be an everlasting covenant with them.*

* How had Judah and Israel’s leaders divided them as a people?
* How can Christians who follow Jesus still end up divided?
* What does Philippians 2:4-5 teach you about how to seek unity?
* What does Galatians 3:28 add to our pursuit of unity?

1. Immanuel is the strength to trump your weakness
2. Our obedience is still on God’s agenda

v. 24 *They shall walk in my rules and be careful to obey my statutes.*

John 14:15 *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

James 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

1. Only “God with us” can make us holy

v. 28 *Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel …*

Jeremiah 32:40 *I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.*

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

Ephesians 5:25-26 *Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her …*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

* If you had seen Jerusalem and its temple destroyed because of your sin, how would you feel about returning and starting over?
* What do you learn in the verses above about how God sanctifies us (i.e. How He makes us holy)?
* If God makes us holy, what is our part in our growth?

1. Immanuel is God with you forever
2. God was bringing them back to the place of blessing

v. 25 *They shall dwell in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob …* *They and their children and their children's children shall dwell there forever …*

v. 26 *I will set them in their land and multiply them*

1. God promised to move back in and never leave us

v. 26 *and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore*

v. 27 *My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 2:19, 21 *Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” … he was speaking about the temple of his body.*

2 Corinthians 6:16 *What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

Revelation 21:3 *Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

* How would the “forever” promises of vv. 25, 26, and 28 have given special reassurance to people in exile due to their sin?
* What are some ways that God has fulfilled His promise to “set my sanctuary in their midst”?
* How does God’s presence in our lives help us to avoid sin?

Study ahead: Tonight, we’ll study Isaiah 7:10-17.

Notes