

## **Emmanuel: God With Us The Spirit Anointed Messiah**

One of the things to look for in the Old Testament is *progressive revelation*. God did not reveal everything all at once. Sometimes, God chose to reveal Himself and His plans over generations. Isaiah's ministry covered 40 years and he gives us several important layers.

- 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin.
- 700 years before Jesus came here, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born a male child.
- Isaiah also said of this child that God would install Him as the one who governs over His people eternally. Some of that's been fulfilled; some of that is not yet.
  
- 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be present and powerful in Jesus constantly. That was a radical departure from the experience of God's people who only knew of the Holy Spirit coming upon specific people for specific periods of time to accomplish specific tasks.
  
- 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be anointed by the Holy Spirit as Israel's long-awaited Messiah. Normally, anointing occurred from one person to another. Jesus would be anointed by God the Holy Spirit for the once in human history role of Messiah-Savior.

This cannot be faked. This is one of the reasons why the Church celebrates Christmas.

God is a promise-keeper.

God is sovereign. God is faithful. God is able.

God accomplishes all that He sets out to accomplish.

God loves people so much that He has sent a Savior.

Jesus Christ has come into this world and His entrance here demonstrates God's concern for you.

All of that is seen in the Isaiah to Jesus connection.

Pastor Karl suggests that if all you had was the Book of Isaiah – you have enough for an accurate expectation of Messiah-Savior.

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. What are some ways that it helps you to know that Jesus *wanted* to come here for you?
2. Can you think of anything that God has called you to do?
3. Much attention in this series has been given to the Isaiah-Jesus connection. What are some thoughts or take-aways you have on that connection?
4. Do you sometimes see people the way Jesus did? Have you given much thought to being able to see people in their spiritual condition?