



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **God With Us**  
Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**  
Scriptures: **Isaiah 7**

## **The Sign of Immanuel**

**7** When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

**2** Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with<sup>[a]</sup> Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

**3** Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub,<sup>[b]</sup> to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. **4** Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. **5** Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, **6** “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.” **7** Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“It will not take place,  
it will not happen,

**8** for the head of Aram is Damascus,  
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

**9** The head of Ephraim is Samaria,  
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,  
you will not stand at all.”

**10** Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, **11** “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

**12** But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

**13** Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>[c]</sup> a sign: The virgin<sup>[d]</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>[e]</sup> will call him Immanuel.<sup>[f]</sup> **15** He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, **16** for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. **17** The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

## **Assyria, the LORD’s Instrument**

**18** In that day the LORD will whistle for flies from the Nile delta in Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. **19** They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thornbushes and at all the water holes. **20** In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria—to shave your head and private parts, and to cut off your

beard also. <sup>21</sup> In that day, a person will keep alive a young cow and two goats. <sup>22</sup> And because of the abundance of the milk they give, there will be curds to eat. All who remain in the land will eat curds and honey. <sup>23</sup> In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels,<sup>[a]</sup> there will be only briers and thorns. <sup>24</sup> Hunters will go there with bow and arrow, for the land will be covered with briers and thorns. <sup>25</sup> As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briers and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.

### **3 Promises of Christmas:**

#### **1. Comfort for your fears**

Isaiah 11:1-9 (Love)

God with us - Emmanuel

#### **The Branch From Jesse**

<sup>11</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—  
<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling<sup>[a]</sup> together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
<sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

#### **2. Calm for your relational fractures**

Isaiah 11:6-9

<sup>6</sup> The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling<sup>[a]</sup> together;  
and a little child will lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
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### **3. Compassion for your failures**

Isaiah 53:5

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

#### **Sermon Summary:**

Celebrate the birth of Jesus at our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service this Sunday! We'll worship together and have our favorite annual tradition - our candle lighting ceremony. Pastor Rich will be preaching on the good news of God's arrival to our world in Jesus.

#### **Sermon Questions:**

1. The three promises shared were comfort for your fears, calm for your relational fractures and compassion for your failures. Which one of these promises is the most challenging for you to trust in this season? Why?
2. Where do you need to be reminded of God's proximity in this season?
3. What relational fracture do you need God's calm in? In what relationship or space may there be an invitation from God for you to be a presence of His calm?
4. How are you at receiving God's compassion for your failures? What has been helpful in growing in receiving His forgiveness and compassion?
5. Which promise do you need the most right now, and why? How can your group pray for you in this season?
6. Rich talked about having "early access" to the live in the promises of Jesus now and not just in eternity. What difference has having early access made in your life in this season? For example, where in your life are you experiencing the peace and joy of early access?