

Thursday 17th December

Suzanne Cooper

Readings

Psalm 34

Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10

Matthew 21: 28-32

*God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:*

King Ahaz is under pressure. Assyria is out to conquer the nearby lands. So Ahaz is trying to get Israel and Syria to join forces and fight Assyria.

Ahaz, is doing this in his own strength. He refuses to turn to God for help even when God, through Isaiah, requests him to ask for a sign.

“I will not put the Lord to the test” is his response.

Is Ahaz right in responding this way?

I feel Ahaz is wrong. God wanted him to ask, to come to him for help.

A while ago I was speaking with a resident and was asked:

“Why should I have the temerity to pray God with my insignificant little prayers when there is so much trouble in the world around?”

The answer I gave was: Because God loves you, you are not unimportant to God.”

God gave a sign to Ahaz. He was told a child would be born to a virgin and called Immanuel. We know this sign happened.

We are approaching Christmas. A time where we can celebrate Gods love for us.

Through the fruition of this sign we have been shown that we are important to God.

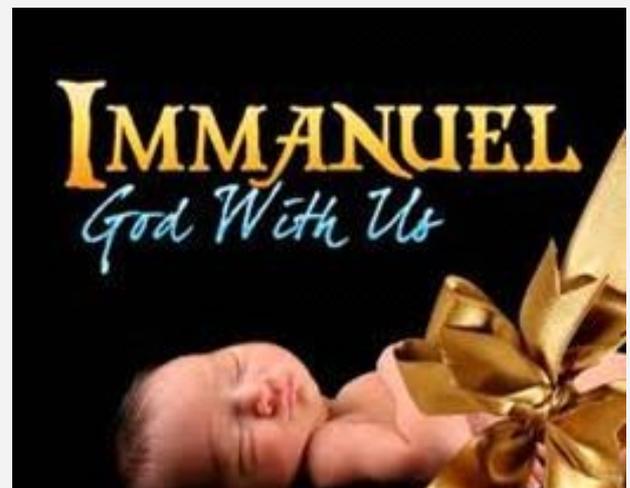
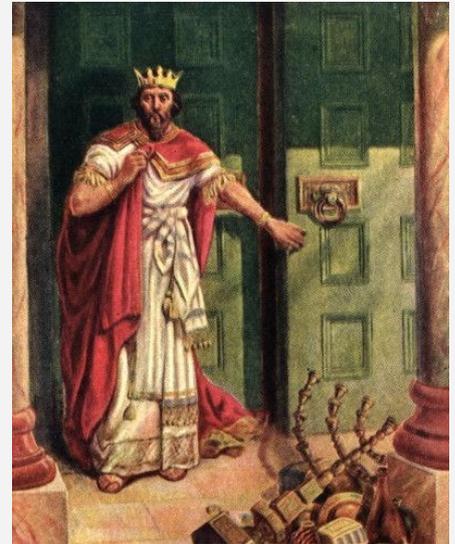
God wants us to come to him with our concerns and he has opened up the way.

We can come to God through,

Jesus our Immanuel.

Let us celebrate for God is with us.

Amen



Thursday 17th

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew.
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, When he comes,
Who will make him welcome?

Prayer

Lord, you asked Ahaz to turn to you, yet he refused.

We thank you that through your promised sign to him you have opened up the way for us to come to you.

Even when we feel insignificant you have proved we are important to you.

Thank you that you hear and respond to our prayers.

This Christmas we celebrate the sign given to Ahaz. This treasured gift given to all.

Thank you for Jesus, our Immanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Long ago Prophets knew.

<https://youtu.be/OeLA1LhqFA4>

We pray for all who receive unexpected and life changing news. News of joy and also that of despair. May Our God bless and direct them.



YouTube

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