



ADVENT  
WEEK 4

## Lectionary for Dec 18

- Isaiah 7.10-16
- Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19
- Romans 1.1-7
- Matthew 1.18-25

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- Ahaz – evil king
- Syria and Ephraim want Judah to join them in fighting Assyria
- God sends Isaiah to Ahaz to reassure Ahaz to trust Him to deal with Syria and Ephraim (Isa 7.1-9)





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## Ahaz put his trust in Assyria vs the Lord

- **2 Kings 16.7-8:** Ahaz sent messengers to say to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, “I am your servant and vassal. Come up and save me out of the hand of the king of Aram and of the king of Israel, who are attacking me.” And Ahaz took the silver and gold found in the temple of the Lord and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as a gift to the king of Assyria



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## Sign of Immanuel signifies:

- **Near-term deliverance from Syria and Ephraim**
- **2 Kings 16.9:** The king of Assyria complied by **attacking Damascus (Syria) and capturing it.**
- **2 Kings 17.6:** In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria **captured Samaria (Ephraim)** and deported the Israelites to Assyria.



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## Sign of Immanuel signifies:

- **Long-term punishment for failing to trust God - exile**
- **Isaiah 7.21-25:**
  - All who remain in the land will eat curds and honey
  - In that day, in every place where there were a thousand vines worth a thousand silver shekels, there will be only briars and thorns
  - As for all the hills once cultivated by the hoe, you will no longer go there for fear of the briars and thorns; they will become places where cattle are turned loose and where sheep run.



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## Jesus is Immanuel

- **Matthew 1.22-23:** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
- **John 1.14** – The Word (the preincarnate Son of God) became flesh (incarnated; was born to Joseph and Mary and named Jesus) and made His dwelling (lived) among us.



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## Jesus' arrival means salvation and condemnation

- **Matthew 10.34:** Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- **John 3.17-18:** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.



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## Truth comes to us through

- **The Spirit** – God speaking directly to our hearts/minds
  - Speaks in a still, small voice that is easy to ignore
  - Pray: help me to keep in step with Your Spirit
- **The Bible** – the plumb line that all else is measured against
  - Can feel outdated/irrelevant and inaccessible; easy to manipulate
  - Pray: help me submit to Your Word





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## Truth comes to us through

- **Others** – God speaks to the body through the body
  - Often Truth is mixed w/the flesh and can be delivered in unkind ways from people we don't necessarily enjoy; easy to dismiss
  - Pray: gives me ears to hear what You are saying to me through this person



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- Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me. Holy Spirit, show me where I am resisting the Truth.
  - *Listen for that still, small voice.*
- Holy Spirit lead me in the way everlasting. Guide me more deeply into the Truth in every area of my life.