

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: November 15, 2020
Fulfilled – “...and they will call him Immanuel”
Matthew 1:22-23, Isaiah 7:14, Ezekiel 37:15-27

1. Read Matthew 1:22-23 and Isaiah 7:14. What is the most important thing that we learn about this child in these texts?
 - a. Well, the whole virgin conceiving thing sound like a pretty big deal.
 - b. I love the stories of the impossible things happening! The big splash! I love it! It really seems like the character of Jesus to point to the big improbable things that he made possible.
 - c. I don't know, maybe the thought of Jesus being “God with us” is more important...

 2. Read Ezekiel 37:15-27. Ezekiel prophesied at the same time as Jeremiah, but he was among the exiles who were taken first. He prophesied to Northern Kingdom (Israel, Ephraim) exiles, while Jeremiah continued to prophesy to the Southern Kingdom (Judah) in Jerusalem, which went into exile later. Ezekiel is known for visual demonstrations in his prophecy (like cooking food over feces, digging holes in his own wall, and laying on each of his sides for a bunch of days in a row. If you know these things, what might be the significance of verses 15-22?
 - a. Well, given all of the things you just said, he's probably just lost his mind.
 - b. If one stick represents Judah and the other represents Ephraim and he holds them in one hand as if they were rejoined...maybe he is prophesying about the reunification of Israel.?
 - c. He makes it pretty clear in the second half of the text...he's talking about the return from exile and undoing all the brokenness in Israel caused by their sin!

 3. According to verse 23, what is his plan for Israel after they are restored?
 - a. They can go back to their old way of life.
 - b. Hey, didn't we just talk about this in our Return series? He wanted a new way of life for them!
 - c. They will no longer defile themselves...for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding....
 - d. “They will be my people, and I will be their God.” Isn't this the covenant that he made with Israel from the beginning (see Exodus 6:1 & Exodus 19:3-6)?

 4. What do we learn from verses 24-27?
 - a. “David” will be king over them.
 - b. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees (things about our first study in Hebrews/Jeremiah).
 - c. David my servant will be their prince forever.
 - d. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant.
 - e. My dwelling place will be with them...

 5. During our Return series, we discussed the return from exile. The temple was rebuilt. Some of these things were fulfilled...at least for a time. However, the temple was destroyed again. Was he talking about a physical kingdom and fulfillment of these things? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. _____
How might our Isaiah/Matthew texts fit in with this promise? _____

- What does this mean for us? _____
