

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – December 26 - 31
Doing Live Together: A Ever Present God

MONDAY: Isaiah 8:8; Isaiah 38:7; Jeremiah 44:29

KEY VERSE: Isaiah 7:13–14

OBSERVATION The name Immanuel (im-ma-nu-ALL) first appears in Isaiah 7:14 as part of a prophetic word that Isaiah spoke to King Ahaz of Judah (the southern kingdom) at a time when Syria and Israel (the northern kingdom) had formed a coalition against Assyria, the region's greatest power. They wanted Judah to join their uprising. The prophet Isaiah counseled Ahaz to trust in the Lord rather than to appeal to Assyria for help against Syria and Israel, who were threatening to invade Judah for refusing to join them. Then he invited Ahaz to ask the Lord for a sign to confirm the prophetic word, but the unfaithful king refused, having already decided to place his trust not in the Lord but in Assyria.

TUESDAY: Luke 24:44; Romans 1:2; Romans 8:31

KEY VERSE: Matthew 1:22–23

OBSERVATION: Shortly after that Syria and Israel were soundly defeated, exactly as Isaiah had prophesied. Many years later the southern kingdom of Judah was destroyed by Babylon, its people taken captive. Matthew's Gospel recalls Isaiah's prophecy, applying it to the child who would be born of Mary, the virgin betrothed to Joseph. The sign given hundreds of years earlier to an apostate king was meant for all God's people.

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 53:12; John 17:11; Psalm 95:6

KEY VERSE: Philippians 2:9-11

OBSERVATION: Jesus came to live and die so that each and every one of us could have eternal life. (John 3:16) He longs not only to bless us with this gift, but He wants us to share that blessing with those around us. We must come to an understanding of how greatly we are loved and valued by God before we can share that love with others. Take some time this week and reflect on the price that Jesus paid so that you could be with Him, always. Remember, He loves you dearly and His greatest desire is that you receive His love and grow in Him.

THURSDAY: Psalm 85:9; John 14:6; John 17:22

KEY VERSE: John 1:14

OBSERVATION: Immanuel does not mean "us with God." It means "God with us." Where will He be with us? In the eternal home he is preparing for us. The incarnation of Christmas isn't temporary; it's permanent. Christ rose in a glorified human body which he will have forever. It's not that Jesus became a baby at Christmas, and then 33 years later came the resurrection and ascension and then he suddenly stopped being a man. No, the second member of the triune God will be a human being for all eternity, reigning from a throne on the New Earth.

FRIDAY: Luke 2:11; Ephesians 2:14; Deuteronomy 10:17

KEY VERSE: Isaiah 9:6

OBSERVATION: It's that wonderful but crazy time of year again! The stores are decorated, the music is playing, the invitations are coming and in the midst of it all, we find ourselves longing for something more. What is this longing stirring in our hearts? I believe it is a "divine ache"; a loneliness of sorts. It is an ache placed carefully in our souls by a sovereign God who desires that we know Him, not just casually, but intimately. We feel this ache every day but often we run from it, hide from it, or try to fill it with something or someone other than God. What would it look like this Christmas season to actually cultivate that ache and set a priority on experiencing God's presence every day of December? Jesus came as Immanuel – meaning, God with us.

SATURDAY: John 14:23; Colossians 1:23; Colossians 2:7

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 3:17-19

OBSERVATION: Do you experience God's love for us? Or do you sometimes think you are all alone in the world? Or that God doesn't love you? If so, you are not alone. Multitudes of people today, Christians and non-Christians, have similar thoughts. This was also true when Paul was alive. Look at what he said when he prayed that the Ephesians would deeply know God's love.