

FORETOLD

3. THE PROPHET

Read Matthew 1.18 – 25 then Isaiah 7.1 – 17

Prophetic signs in Scripture aren't simply predictions of the future with no relevance to the present. They were fulfilled and brought comfort and joy to those who heard them. Yet their power as signs points far beyond the original application. They're ultimately fulfilled in the fullest possible way in Jesus.

- *Does this impact the way you think about prophecy in the Bible? Have you ever just thought that they were simple predictions that made no sense at the time?*
- *What strikes you about the backstory of this particular sign? Why do you think God was willing to give such a powerful sign to such an evil king? (2 Kings 16.1-4)*
- *Why do you think God gives us signs? Why not just tell us something plainly instead of wrapping it in an image? And aren't we supposed to just live by faith?*
- *Did the analogy of Captain America work for you? (And does this make the Holy Spirit the ultimate screen writer?!)*
- *Can you identify with the original hearers of this sign of Immanuel? What are the problems you find most overwhelming? How have you been disappointed with leaders? Can you identify with the feelings of fear and anxiety?*
- *Why is the message of Immanuel – God with us – so important for our world right now?*

BIG IDEA: Prophetic signs in Scripture are iconic moments that resonate far beyond their time and find their fullest meaning in Jesus. They bring a comfort and joy that needs to be shared.

With Metro Carols coming up on Sunday take some time to think about who you can invite and pray that you would get an opportunity to share the comfort and joy of Jesus with them.