
Series: Seeing Jesus in Summer

Jesus: God With Us

The Gospel of John

Introduction:

Return with me to John 9

The reason why the blind man and his parents would have been kicked out of the synagogue was due to the fact that the Jews believed that the Messiah would be God Himself. To declare Jesus to be Messiah would be utter blasphemy since that would make God out to be a mere mortal.

What was that belief founded on?

The book of Isaiah affirms more than once that Messiah would be God. The most explicit of these affirmations comes in chapters 7-12. The immediate context of Isaiah is the impending judgment about to come on the northern kingdom of Israel at the hands of the Assyrians. Isaiah longs for a sign – a promise – that God will not abandon his people, that He will defend and/or deliver them from this judgment.

The sign that God gives him is found in 7:14

Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Put yourself in Isaiah's shoes. The nativity of the first Christmas is more than 600 years out. What does this mean? How does this fix the plight with the Assyrians?

The promise, in its context is meant to assure Israel that He had promised an everlasting throne of David. God will keep his covenant promise of an eternal kingdom.

This sign is in response to Isaiah's plea in v. 11:

Isaiah 7:11 (ESV)

¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."

The implication is that this sign, in its fulfillment will be a miraculous and momentous indication of God's covenant faithfulness to be with Israel as their defender and deliverer. This sign will be just as stupendous as causing the sun to move back in the sky by ten degrees...cf.

Isaiah 38:7-8 (ESV)

⁷"This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that he has promised: ⁸Behold, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps." So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined.

As you read further on into Isaiah's prophecy, there is more said about this baby that is going to be born to a virgin. Look at his name in 9:6

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

These are statements that God himself is coming to redeem, restore and rule over his people (cf. Is. 40:9-11; 43:10-13; 59:15-20).

Listen to Isaiah 40:3

³A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

You know that the Gospel accounts quote this passage and apply it to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the birth of Jesus. Jesus is God come to us; God with us. In the narrative account of the nativity, the angel tells Joseph...

Matthew 1:19-23 (ESV)

...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

This is a quote of Isaiah 7:14.

That is the backdrop of John 9. But it is the point of John’s entire Gospel account. He set to write a treatise that proves and leads to faith in Jesus as the Son of God.

John 20:30-31 (ESV)

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Bookends

- I. Jesus as God in the Gospel of John
 - A. In the introduction (1:1-18)
 1. Jesus as God in John 1:1
 - (a) “Word” is a name for Jesus
 - (b) The Word was already existing “in the beginning” (v.1-2)
 - (1) Takes the reader back to Genesis 1:1
 - (2) Both passages immediately follow with a discussion of creation and light (Genesis 1:1, 3-5; John 1:3-5, 9)
 - (3) Jesus is eternal and uncreated – both essential attributes of God.
 - (c) The Word made his dwelling among us (v.14)

- (1) The word for “dwelling” is the same as tabernacle
- (2) Jesus is the very presence of God on earth just as the God’s presence was once fixed to a tabernacle (Exodus 40:35)
- (d) The Word shows the glory of God in “grace and truth” (v.14)
 - (1) Moses requested to see God’s glory (Exodus 33:18)
 - (2) Moses saw God’s lovingkindness and truth (Exodus 34:6)
 - (3) No one can see God and live (John 1:18; Exodus 33:20)

2. Jesus as God in John 1:18

B. Jesus as God in the Conclusion (20:28)

Do you hear those words, “MY GOD”?

When Thomas confesses, “My Lord and My God.” He means to attribute to Jesus everything that an OT believer would have attributed to God.

My rock, defense, shield, buckler, way, path, light, strong tower, fortress, salvation, redeemer, strength, joy, life, longing, refuge.

Do you have a God who is for you?

Are you a refugee?

Are you one who needs to run to Jesus?