

Meaning of the Hebrew name Immanuel

The Hebrew name Immanuel occurs twice in the Old Testament, both times in Isaiah, both in prophecies concerning the **Messiah**. In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet writes, "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name **Immanuel**." In 8:8 he writes, "...and the spread of [the Euphrates', see v 7] wings will fill the breadth of your land, O **Immanuel**."

Seven centuries later, **Joseph** finds **Mary**, his wife to be, with child and is understandably disgruntled. But an angel from Yahuah visits him in a dream and quotes Isaiah, saying that Joseph's little family is the target of a famous, seven hundred year old prophecy. The Child will be called **Immanuel** eventually, but for now he should be named **Yahusha** (Matthew 1:19-25)).

Where, in this context, exactly the name Yahusha (=Joshua) came from is not immediately clear, but **Immanuel** is not the only name **Isaiah** pinned on the Messiah. In 9:6 he writes, "And his name will be called Palayaas (Wonderful Counselor), Elgebur (Mighty Elohim), Abiad (Eternal Father), Sar shalom (Prince of Peace). Yahusha, of course, became known by all those names.

The name **Immanuel** consists of two parts:

1a) The Hebrew preposition עִם (*im* 1640b), meaning 'with'. It comes from the unused root עָמַם ('*mm* 1640) that also yields עָם ('*am* 1640a), a people; מֵעַם (*me'im* 1640c), from or with; אִם ('*am* 1640e), paternal kinsman; עִמּוֹד (*'umma* 1640f), against, beside.

1b) The *nu*-part in Immanu comes from the plural form in which the Im-part is put. The Hebrew language only very sparsely utilizes the verb 'to be,' and when it should be obvious that some form of that verb should be somewhere in the sentence, it's simply omitted. In English the plural goes to the pronoun ('with me' becomes 'with us'), and that makes the plural of the preposition 'with' impossible to translate literally. The word עִם (*im*) means 'with me' and the word עִמָּנוּ (*immanu*) means 'with us.'

2) The Hebrew word אֱלֹהִים (*El* 93a), the common abbreviation of the word אֱלֹהִים **Elohim**, denoting the Genesis God.

Right after Isaiah names **Immanuel** for the second time (8:8), he says, "Devise

a plan but it will be thwarted; state a proposal, but it will not stand, for Elohim (God) is with us" (v10). The Hebrew of the last two words of this sentence is עִמָּנוּ אֱלֹהִים; an exact replica of the name **Immanuel**.

The name **Immanuel** means **Elohim** (God) (Is) With Us or **Elohim** (God) Resides Among Us.