

GOD IS WITH US, IMMANUEL

[Message 4 \(of 12\)](#) – Maranatha: I'm Coming Soon

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Introduction

There is a question hidden inside every dark chapter of human history.

It is the question of the slave under Pharaoh, looking up from the brick pits.

It is the question of the exile in Babylon, weeping by foreign rivers.

It is the question of the believer in the coliseum, hearing the lions stir.

It is the question whispered today over hospital beds, over coffins, over headlines we can no longer bear to read.

Where is God?

And the answer the Lord gave through the prophet Isaiah was not a sermon. It was not a sentence. It was a name.

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

Immanuel.

In Hebrew — three small syllables. Im-manu-El. With us. God.

Not a doctrine. Not a feeling. A position. God Himself, taking up His position in the middle of His people.

And here is what nobody in Isaiah's day could have predicted: the Lord did not give that name in a season of revival. He did not give it in the days of David and the harp. He did not give it under Solomon and the glory cloud.

He gave the name Immanuel under a king named Ahaz. A child-killer. A sorcerer. A coward who had already sold his nation to Assyria in his heart.

The Lord gives His clearest signs in the darkest seasons.

That is the message in this fourth installment of Maranatha. And it is a message we need to hear — because we are living in such a season.

The Series

I am Dickson Wasake, a slave of God and the Lord Jesus.

About 8 years ago I fell into holy fire after I encountered the Lord Jesus while reading the Bible. He placed a love for Him in my heart, and so we preach because we love the Lord -- who is coming soon.

On December 4, 2025, the Lord Jesus spoke to me to preach a series of 12 messages titled: "Maranatha! I am coming soon..." This is Message 4.

In Message 1, we heard the knock -- the Bridegroom at the door of His own house, calling His lukewarm Bride back to first love.

In Message 2, we unmasked the counterfeit -- the Antichrist, the one who will one day demand the throne that belongs to Another.

In Message 3, we lifted our eyes to the King who owns that throne -- announced before Bethlehem, crowned at Calvary, enthroned in glory right now, and riding back.

Today we go further back than Bethlehem -- and further forward than Calvary.

Back to a wicked king named Ahaz.

Forward to a wicked king still to come.

And in between -- to a star, to a manger, and to a sign in the sky that no false prophet could counterfeit.

Will you listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches?

Anchor Text

Isaiah 7:13-14 (NIV) *"Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.'"*

There -- buried in the middle of that verse.

Not the prophet. Not the priest. Not the king. Not the magician.

THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE THE SIGN.

That word -- HIMSELF -- is the heartbeat of this whole message.

Because when men have failed, when prophets have been silenced, when priests have grown cold, when kings have become wolves -- the Lord Himself stands up. And He signs His name in the sky.

Everything in this message hangs on that one word.

Let us follow the sign of the Lord -- through three dark thrones in history.

Part 1: A Throne in the Dark -- The Days of Ahaz

Some have read Isaiah 7 a thousand times and never seen what is in it.

Today we will see it.

Who Was This Man?

Ahaz was a king of Judah. Twentieth in the line of David.

He sat on the throne God had promised would last forever -- the throne where David danced before the ark, where Solomon prayed for wisdom, where the Messiah Himself was promised to sit.

And on that throne -- sat Ahaz.

2 Kings 16:2-4 (NIV) *"Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king... He did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God. He followed the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree."*

Stop and look at that phrase: he sacrificed his son in the fire.

That is not a metaphor. That is not figurative language. That is a king of Judah burning his own child alive on an altar to a foreign god.

This is the throne of David -- and it is occupied by a man who burns his own son.

And Scripture says he did this -- listen -- engaging in the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out.

In other words: God had judged the Canaanites for these very practices. And here is a king of Judah doing exactly what those Canaanites did.

He had become the very thing God had judged.

There is no warning more terrifying than this: God's people becoming the very thing He once judged.

And It Was Not Just the Children. It Was the Witchcraft.

On every high hill -- sacrifices.

Under every spreading tree -- incense.

In every shrine of Baal -- divination.

Sorcerers consulted at the palace gate. Mediums and necromancers running the kingdom by stars and entrails.

This was the king. This was the season.

The Man on the Throne -- and the Heart in Damascus

And then war came. Syria and Ephraim came up against Jerusalem.

Isaiah 7:2 (NIV) *"...the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind."*

Picture a forest in a storm. That is the heart of the king. That is the heart of his people. Shaking. Bending. Terrified.

And what does Ahaz do? Does he repent? Does he tear his clothes and call a fast? Does he turn to the Lord his God?

No.

He runs to Assyria. He sends the gold of the temple of God as a bribe to the king of Assyria. He empties the house of the Lord -- to pay for the protection of a pagan empire.

That is who Ahaz was.

On the outside -- son of David, king of Judah, defender of Jerusalem.

On the inside -- bowing in Damascus, paying Assyria, consulting witches.

Hear me, Church -- there are kings today like Ahaz.

They sit in pulpits with the right titles. They sit in offices with the right credentials. They sit at family tables with the right Bible verses.

But their hearts are in Damascus. Their alliances are pagan. Their advisors are sorcerers in modern dress. Their gold has been spent buying favour from the very world they were called to confront.

The Kindness of God to a Wicked King

Isaiah 7:10-11 (NIV) *"Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.'"*

This is one of the most extraordinary verses in the Old Testament.

The Lord speaks to a child-killer. The Lord speaks to a witch-consulter. The Lord speaks to a temple-robber. And the Lord says -- ASK ME for a sign.

Ask it deep as Sheol. Ask it high as the heavens. There is no limit. There is no condition. Just ask.

That is mercy. That is grace running ahead of judgment. That is the long, long patience of God with a man who deserved the fire he was throwing his children into.

Isaiah 7:12 (NIV) *"But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.'"*

Look at that false piety.

"I will not put the Lord to the test."

He sounds humble. He sounds reverent. He sounds like the kind of man who would say grace before dinner.

But it is a lie.

Ahaz did not refuse the sign because he feared God. Ahaz refused the sign because he had already made up his mind. His treaty with Assyria was already in motion. His sorcerers had already given him their reading. If God gave a sign, it would expose him. So he refused the sign - and called his refusal holy.

Religious language is the favourite costume of a hardened heart.

There are people in our generation who refuse the truth and call it humility.

There are pastors who refuse to preach repentance and call it grace.

There are leaders who refuse to confront sin and call it love.

There are believers who refuse the cross and call it freedom.

That is Ahaz language. Spiritual on the surface. Damascus underneath.

And Then -- Heaven Raised Its Voice

Isaiah 7:13-14 (NIV) *"Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.'"*

Isaiah does not even speak to Ahaz any more. He speaks past him. He turns -- over the king's head -- and addresses the WHOLE house of David.

"Hear now, you house of David!"

Past Ahaz. Down through Hezekiah, Manasseh, Josiah. Down through Babylon and back. Down through four hundred silent years. Down to a virgin in Nazareth. Down to a manger in Bethlehem. Down to you. Down to me. Down to the very last reader of this transcript.

THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU A SIGN.

The Sign Ahaz Could Not Have Invented

The Hebrew word Isaiah uses is *almah*. It means a young woman of marriageable age -- a maiden -- sexually untouched.

And when the Holy Spirit translated this verse into Greek for the Septuagint -- three hundred years before Jesus was born -- the Spirit chose the word *parthenos*. Virgin. Untouched. Unmistakeable.

So when the angel speaks to Joseph in Matthew 1, he is not stretching anything. He is reading Isaiah 7:14 exactly as it had always been understood.

Matthew 1:22-23 (NIV) *"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')."*

God chose the one sign no sorcerer could counterfeit. The one sign no king could engineer. The one sign no false prophet could replicate.

A virgin will conceive. Without a man. By the Holy Spirit. And the Child will be God Himself among us.

In the darkest hour of David's house, when a king was burning his children, when sorcerers ran the palace, when the temple gold was paying for pagan protection -- the Lord HIMSELF signed His name in the sky.

And His signature was a Virgin and a Son.

The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.

He who has an ear — the Lord signs the sky in the season of Ahaz.

Part 2: A Counterfeit Crown -- The Days of Herod

Now move forward seven hundred years. From Ahaz to Herod the Great. From one dark throne to another.

Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV) *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'"*

Herod the Great -- Great by Whom?

History calls him Herod the Great. Great builder. Great administrator. Great political survivor.

He rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem. He built the fortress of Masada. He built the harbour of Caesarea Maritima. Rome called him a friend. Caesar called him king.

Great by Rome. Great by Caesar. Great by historians.

But NOT GREAT BY GOD.

Heaven uses different scales than earth.

Herod was not even a Jew by full blood. He was an Idumean -- a descendant of Esau, of Edom -- the very people who had cursed Israel for centuries. He sat on a Jewish throne with Edomite blood and Roman allegiance. He was a counterfeit king from his coronation onwards.

And his rule was steeped in murder. Hear the list. This is not legend. This is history.

He killed his beloved wife Mariamne -- and then mourned her with insanity for years.

He killed her grandfather, the high priest Hyrcanus.

He killed her brother Aristobulus -- drowned him in a swimming pool while pretending it was an accident.

He killed his own three sons -- Alexander, Aristobulus, and Antipater -- afraid they would take his crown.

Caesar Augustus himself reportedly said: better to be Herod's pig than Herod's son.

And five days before he died, knowing nobody would weep at his funeral, he ordered the most prominent men of Judea locked in a stadium -- with instructions that the moment he died, they should be slaughtered -- just so the nation would weep on the day of his death.

That is Herod the Great. Murder. Paranoia. Deception. Political alliance with Rome at any cost.

And -- like Ahaz -- a deep entanglement with the dark arts. Herod surrounded himself with astrologers, court magicians, and political fortune-tellers.

This was the throne in Jerusalem when the Christ was born.

And the Lord -- Gave the Sign Anyway

In the middle of that throne -- the Lord gave a sign. And He gave it through people Herod did not even know existed.

Magi from the East. Probably from Persia -- possibly Babylon. Possibly inheritors of the Hebrew Scriptures Daniel had left behind, having served at the highest level in both Babylonian and Persian courts for decades.

Daniel had told them about a Messiah. Daniel had told them about a kingdom that would never end. And Daniel had told them WHEN to look -- the seventy weeks of his prophecy.

So they were watching. They were sober. They were studying. They were looking up. And they saw the sign.

Matthew 2:9-10 (NIV) *"...the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed."*

Now think about that star. It moved. It led. It stopped -- over a particular house, in a particular village, over a particular Child.

Stars do not behave like that. Astronomy does not explain that. That is the Lord -- Himself -- signing His name in the sky again.

Same Lord. Same darkness. Same signature. New sign.

Two Responses to the Sign

Matthew 2:3 (NIV) *"When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him."*

Disturbed. Not joyful. Not worshipful. Not even curious. DISTURBED.

The whole city. The priests in their temple courts. The scribes in their academies. The Pharisees in their synagogues. The Sadducees on their political councils. The Herodians at the palace gate.

They all knew the Scriptures. They could quote Micah 5:2 from memory. They knew the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. They had read Daniel. They had read Isaiah. They had read every prophet.

And when foreign astrologers showed up announcing the Messiah -- they told them where to go, and stayed home themselves.

It is possible to know all the right Scriptures and miss the King they point to.

The chief priests knew the verse -- and stayed in their offices. The scribes knew the prophecy -- and never walked the six miles to Bethlehem. The Pharisees knew the law -- and missed the Lawgiver. The Sadducees knew the politics -- and missed the Prince of Peace.

There are people in pews today who can quote chapter and verse -- who can sing every hymn -- who can debate every doctrine -- and miss the Lord of the chapter, the verse, the hymn, and the doctrine.

Right knowledge without a worshipping heart is Jerusalem's tragedy. Do not repeat it.

The Faithful Who Saw

But not everyone missed the sign. Look around the nativity. Look closely. The faithful are there.

Mary -- the young virgin who said yes when an angel called her favoured.

Joseph -- the quiet carpenter who obeyed when shame would have walked away.

Elizabeth -- the old woman whose unborn baby leapt at the sound of Mary's voice.

Zechariah -- the silenced priest who burst into prophecy the moment his tongue was loosed.

The shepherds -- keeping watch over their flocks by night when angels filled the sky.

And then -- two old saints in the temple.

Luke 2:25-30 (NIV) *"There was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him... Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation...'"*

Simeon saw. Simeon recognised. Simeon held the sign in his arms.

Luke 2:36-38 (NIV) *"There was also a prophet, Anna... She was very old... She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."*

Anna saw. Anna recognised. Anna had been waiting for sixty years and finally -- she saw.

The faithful are always the ones who recognise the Lord -- because the faithful are always looking.

Wise men from the east -- recognised. Shepherds from the field -- recognised. Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah -- recognised. Simeon and Anna in the temple -- recognised.

Herod -- did not. The chief priests -- did not. Jerusalem -- did not.

Why? Because they had given their hearts to a counterfeit throne. And when your heart is given to the counterfeit, you cannot recognise the Real.

*The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.
He who has an ear — the faithful are the ones who recognise.*

Part 3: A Final Counterfeit -- The Days Still to Come

Now turn to the third throne. Because everything we have seen so far is a pattern. And the pattern is going to repeat one final time.

There is coming a final dark throne. A final counterfeit king. A final season of deception.

We met him in Message 2 of this series -- the Antichrist.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NIV) *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."*

Revelation 13:13-14 (NIV) *"And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs it was given power to perform on behalf of the first beast, it deceived the inhabitants of the earth..."*

Look at the Parallels

Like Ahaz -- sorcery and idolatry rule the day.

Like Ahaz -- innocent blood is on his hands.

Like Ahaz -- his heart is bowing to a foreign power -- the dragon himself.

Like Herod -- he calls himself a king he is not.

Like Herod -- he sits on a throne that does not belong to him.

Like Herod -- he murders any who threaten his crown.

And like both -- he reigns in a season of darkness so deep that even the elect would be deceived if they could.

Matthew 24:24 (NIV) *"For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."*

We Are Already Living in That Shadow

We are not waiting for that season. We are already living in its shadow.

Witchcraft is no longer hidden in dark alleys -- it is sold as wellness. Crystals on Instagram. Tarot cards in airport bookshops. Horoscopes in news apps. Yoga rebranded as exercise -- its mantras whispered into school gymnasiums. Reiki sold as healing. Spirit guides marketed as therapy. Mediums on Netflix specials.

Innocent blood floods our streets and clinics. Tens of millions of unborn since Roe v. Wade in America alone. Wars in Sudan, in Ukraine, in Gaza -- children buried under rubble. Famine engineered. Disease weaponised. Suicide normalised.

Counterfeit kings rise on every continent -- politicians who swear on Bibles and govern by polls; CEOs who lecture nations on morality while harvesting our data; celebrities who claim divinity while drowning in addiction; influencers selling their bodies and calling it empowerment.

And in the church -- listen carefully -- the great falling away has already begun.

Pulpits that will not say the word sin. Pastors who deconstruct from stages they were ordained on. Whole denominations marrying what God called abomination. Prosperity preachers selling miracles for monthly subscriptions. Worship teams playing concerts where altars used to stand. Christians who can name every Marvel hero and not five Old Testament prophets.

This is the season. This is the dark. This is Ahaz on a thousand thrones and Herod in a thousand palaces.

And in This Dark -- the Lord Will Give His Sign

Matthew 24:27, 30 (NIV) *"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man... Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."*

Behold the third sign.

In the days of Ahaz -- a virgin conceived.

In the days of Herod -- a star moved.

In the days of the Antichrist -- the SIGN of the Son of Man appears in heaven.

Lightning from east to west. The sky torn open. The clouds peeled back. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself coming in glory.

Unusual. Unmistakeable. Unrepeatable. The signature of God.

No magician can fake it. No politician can engineer it. No false prophet can counterfeit it. No artificial intelligence can simulate it. No deepfake can replicate it.

Because the Lord Himself will give the sign -- and every eye will see Him.

The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.

He who has an ear — the same Lord who signed the sky for Ahaz, and signed the sky for Herod, will sign the sky one final time.

Part 4: To Whom Is This Message? -- A Word for the Watching and the Unwatching

This is the cutting edge of the message.

The Lord Jesus Himself spoke this rebuke to His own generation:

Matthew 16:2-3 (NIV) *"When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times."*

In the original Greek, He says: hypocrites.

That is the word our Lord used. Not unbelievers. Not pagans. Not outsiders. Hypocrites -- the religious people who could read the weather but could not read the times.

There is a Pharisee in every generation. There is one in ours.

And so the Spirit calls out -- by name -- those He is addressing today.

If the shoe fits, repent.

To the Lukewarm Christian

You who can name every football team but not the twelve apostles.

You who post Bible verses on Instagram and lust on the same phone.

You who tithe ten percent and give the other ninety to your idols.

You who sing "I surrender all" on Sunday and surrender nothing on Monday.

Wake up. The Lord is at the door -- Message 1 told you so. The Antichrist is rising -- Message 2 told you so. The King is coming -- Message 3 told you so. And now -- Immanuel is calling you to repent before His sign tears the sky open.

To the Christian Flirting with Witchcraft

You who consult horoscopes for fun.

You who read tarot cards on TikTok and call it harmless.

You who took the yoga class because of the stretching.

You who played with the Ouija board at fourteen and never repented.

You who watched the medium on Netflix and felt a chill you could not name.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NIV) *"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord..."*

That is Ahaz language. That is the season of Ahaz returning to the church.

Repent. Renounce. Burn it. Cut it off.

To the Prosperity Preacher

You who turned the gospel into a business model.

You who promised healing in exchange for seed offerings.

You who fly on private jets while widows you taught to give cannot pay rent.

You who soften every hard word of Scripture so the donations keep coming.

You are Ahaz with a microphone. You have spent the gold of God's house buying favour from the world.

Repent. Or the Lord Himself will give a sign -- and your platform will collapse before it.

To the Politician Who Claims Christ but Bows to Herod

You who quote Scripture at rallies and vote for the abortion of children in the womb.

You who hold up a Bible for the photograph and pass laws against the unborn the next morning.

You who profess the Prince of Peace and finance the wars.

You who claim the King of kings and bow at the altar of party loyalty.

You are not great by God. You are Herod with a constitution.

Repent -- before the King returns and you are exposed in His light.

To the Silent Pastor

You who know the truth and will not speak it because the elders fear losing donors.

You who watered down the sermon on hell because a visiting family complained.

You who stopped preaching against sin because the culture got loud.

You who looked the other way while sheep in your flock walked into the wolves' mouths.

There are pulpits in our generation that have not heard the words sin, repent, hell, judgment, or holy in years.

Watchmen who do not warn become accomplices.

Ezekiel 33:6 (NIV) *"But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone's life... I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood."*

Open your mouth. Or close your pulpit. There is no third option.

To the Discouraged Faithful

And then -- there is you. You who have been faithful in a faithless generation.

You who pray when no one sees. You who fast when no one knows. You who tell your children the truth even when the world is screaming at them. You who have lost friends, jobs, family -- for refusing to bow.

Hear this clearly:

Luke 21:28 (NIV) *"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

Stand up. Lift up your heads. Your redemption is drawing near.

Like Simeon -- you have been waiting for the consolation of Israel.

Like Anna -- you have been fasting and praying night and day.

Like the wise men -- you have been studying the heavens.

Like Mary -- you have been treasuring the word in your heart.

Like the shepherds -- you have been keeping watch by night.

And the Lord will not disappoint the watching.

*The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.
He who has an ear — the watching are the ones who will see Him.*

Part 5: God With Us -- Even in the Dark

Now hear the heart of this name as we close.

Immanuel. God with us.

Not God watching. Not God observing. Not God commenting from a distance.

GOD -- WITH -- US.

In the days of Ahaz -- when children burned and witches ruled -- God was with His remnant.

In the days of Herod -- when babies were slaughtered in Bethlehem -- God was with His Son in Egypt.

In the days of the Antichrist -- when the dragon rages and the deception multiplies -- God will be with His bride.

Because the same Lord who promised the sign to the house of David is the same Lord who fulfilled the sign in the manger of Bethlehem is the same Lord who will give the final sign in the heavens above.

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

Same Lord. Same signature. Same faithfulness.

And His final promise to His own:

Matthew 28:20 (NIV) *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Even to the end of the age. Right through the days of the Antichrist. Right through the great deception. Right through the dark throne. Right through the lightning that splits the sky.

Immanuel -- to the very last breath of this age.

*The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.
He who has an ear — the Lord who signed the sky has not abandoned His people.*

A Prophetic Word Before the Altar

I want to say something slowly. Hear it not just with your mind -- hear it in your spirit.

We are living in days like Ahaz.

Children are passing through fires of a different kind. Witchcraft is sold in airport bookshops. Pagan empires are courted with the gold of the temple. And kings of Judah dress their hardness in religious humility.

We are living in days like Herod.

Counterfeit thrones rise. The wise men from the East are watching. The chief priests still know the verses. And Jerusalem is still disturbed when the King is announced.

We are not far from the days of the Antichrist.

And the same Lord who signed the sky in the season of Ahaz, and signed the sky in the season of Herod, is going to sign the sky one final time.

Some will see Him and rejoice -- because they were watching.

Some will see Him and wail -- because they were not.

The difference is being made now. In the choices you make today. In the witchcraft you renounce. In the pulpit you reclaim. In the lukewarmness you abandon. In the watching you take up.

Today -- before the sign appears in heaven, before the lightning splits the sky, before every eye sees Him -- the door is still open. He is still calling. The same Lord who said HIMSELF will give the sign is still saying: ask Me. Deep as Sheol. High as the heavens. Just ask.

*The Lord Himself gives the sign. He already knows.
He who has an ear — the door is still open. Choose now.*

Altar Call

Today I am calling you to bow before Immanuel while the door is still open.

On that great day, every knee will bow. But not all in love.

Today -- you can bow in love. In surrender. In the freedom that only comes from knowing the Lord before the sign appears.

If you have been Ahaz -- if your heart has been in Damascus while your mouth said the right things -- repent.

If you have been Herod -- if you have built a kingdom on a counterfeit crown -- repent.

If you have been Jerusalem -- if you have known the Scriptures and missed the King -- repent.

If you have been the chief priests -- quoting verses while the Christ walks past you -- repent.

If you have been lukewarm -- if you have flirted with witchcraft, hidden in religion, served prosperity, voted with Herod, or stayed silent in the pulpit -- repent.

And if you have been faithful -- if you have been Simeon, Anna, the shepherds, the wise men -- lift your head. Your redemption is drawing near.

Bow your head. Lift your hands. Do something with your body that says to heaven: I am sober, I am alert, I am watching for the sign.

Pray with me:

"Lord Jesus,

You are Immanuel -- God with us.

Forgive me for staring at the darkness instead of looking up.

Forgive me for being asleep when You called me to watch.

Forgive me for the witchcraft I touched, the idols I tolerated, the silence I called peace.

Forgive me for the false piety that sounded holy and was Damascus underneath.

Wash me again in the blood of the Lamb.

Set my heart on fire for Your appearing.

Make me sober. Make me alert. Make me watching.

Open my eyes to recognise Your sign -- when You give it.

Make me one of the faithful -- like Simeon, like Anna, like the wise men, like the shepherds.

And until that Day,

walk with me through every dark throne and every counterfeit king.

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Be Immanuel to me. God with me.

Come, Lord Jesus.

MARANATHA. Amen."