Question:
When we read Isaiah 7:14, we encounter the name Immanuel, who is clearly identified as the Lord JESUS. However, when we move forward to Isaiah 8:8, another Immanuel appears. Is this the same Immanuel the Lord JESUS?

Answer:
Let’s carefully examine these passages.

Isaiah 7:14 states:

> “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” *(NIV)*

This prophecy is messianic, pointing directly to the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Messiah (cf. Matthew 1:22-23, which explicitly applies this prophecy to Jesus). The name *Immanuel* means “God with us,” affirming the divine nature of Christ, God manifest in

human flesh (John 1:14). This verse foreshadows the virgin birth and God's redemptive presence through Jesus.

Now, Isaiah 8:8 says:

> "He will sweep on into Judah, he will overflow and pass through it. He will reach up to its neck; his outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, Immanuel." *(NIV)*

This verse references an imminent historical event during Isaiah's time involving the Assyrian invasion of Judah. The "Immanuel" here symbolizes the presence of God with the people of Judah as a nation, rather than the Messiah himself. It reflects God's protective presence and assurance despite the political and military threats (cf. Isaiah 8:10-13).

Theologically, this shows that *Immanuel* is not solely a personal name but also a declaration of God's ongoing presence with His people. In this context, Judah is called *Immanuel* to remind them that God is with them amidst trials and enemies. It's a corporate, covenantal reality, not just a messianic title.

The historical background is crucial: Israel (the northern kingdom) and Syria formed an alliance to attack Judah, pressuring King Ahaz to join them (Isaiah 7:1-2). Ahaz's refusal led to threats against Judah. Instead of trusting foreign alliances (Assyria), Isaiah calls Judah to trust in God's presence *Immanuel*. God's presence signifies protection and hope.

Are you "in Jesus"?

Being "in Jesus" means abiding in a living relationship with Him. Jesus said in John 15:4-5 (NIV):

> "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

This intimate union is necessary for spiritual life and fruitfulness. Without this connection, one cannot experience the fullness of God's presence or power.

Furthermore, Revelation 3:20 (NIV) beautifully portrays Jesus'

invitation:

> “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

This depicts the personal nature of salvation Jesus knocks on the door of our hearts, desiring fellowship and covenant relationship. Opening the door symbolizes repentance and faith.

Summary:

Isaiah 7:14’s *Immanuel* is the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ God incarnate, who came to dwell among us and save us from sin.

Isaiah 8:8’s *Immanuel* represents God’s presence with Judah as a nation in times of trial, reminding them to trust God rather than political powers.

Being *Immanuel* means “God with us,” a profound truth for all believers who accept Christ and live in close fellowship with Him.

Be blessed!

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