

ABSTRACT

It is becoming more and more of a reality in biblical studies that one cannot assume that there is one unchangeable meaning to the text of the Bible. In order for people in different communities to hear the Word of God to them, the text of the Bible must speak to their particular situations.

This study was therefore undertaken in an effort to explore a reading of the much debated **Immanuel Prophecy in Isaiah 7:14** from the point of view of the people of the Caribbean.

The investigation does not propose to seek a Christocentric understanding of Immanuel as is the case of St. Matthew 1:23. However, it recognises that with the special focus on Mary in Matthew and Luke, there is a similar emphasis on the role of women in the salvific process. The concern will be to look at the historical and theological context of the text. Some consideration will be given to the dilemma of the prophet in the light of the crisis as one who was brought up on the theology of the inviolability of Zion. The process will also focus on the dynamic of the male-female encounter in the text and to read this from the point of view of the Caribbean.

The study therefore proposes that despite the low involvement of the father, the Immanuel Prophecy represents good news for the people of the Caribbean. It affirms that the salvific process is most clearly seen in the text in the affirmation of the child-bearing woman and in the people of the Caribbean, in the decisive contribution of our women. This they do, in their bearing and rearing of children and especially in their ability to create the vision of the better day in those children. Thus, their contribution becomes our symbol of hope and promise.

It is hoped that this study will give a new appreciation to the decisive contribution of our women/mothers in the development of our region. This seems particularly important at this stage in our development as our women press for greater recognition of their own role.