

Matthew 1:18-25

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1

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, 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. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins.”

2

Matthew 1:18-25

22 All 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).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

In v22 we are told "all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet"

– That prophet is Isaiah (700+ years BC) Is 7:14

V23 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" *(which means, God with us).*

– His name Immanuel: God with us

– As we consider the birth of Jesus, we need to think about the weight of each of these words and then consider them together

God

- Being eternally existent and the Creator of all things, therefore all things must be defined by Him
- He is the standard, there is nothing like Him
- **Isaiah 6:3** "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
- **Psalm 104:32** (God) "Who looks on the earth and it trembles, Who touches the mountains and they smoke!"
- **Amos 9:5** The Lord God of hosts, He who touches the earth and it melts

5

God

- **Psalm 97:5** The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth
- **Nahum 1:5** The mountains quake before Him; the hills melt, the earth heaves before Him
- **Psalm 19:1** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork
- **Habakkuk 1:13a** You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong
- **Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

6

This God is with us

- “Us” is referring to humanity (The Creator is with the

- created)

- Jesus (Immanuel-God) is taking on the form of a man to

come

- The fact that this doesn't leave us awestruck continually shows that we are still wrestling with the flesh and not seeing fully

God has come and He has taken on the form of a man

- **Colossians 1:19** *For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*

What if He had not come?

- We would remain dead in our sins until the just judgment of God (where He would render to each one according to his works)

Immanuel-God with us

He did come: This brings hope for hopeless humanity (Hearing “Immanuel” should result in praise)

Philippians 2:6-8 *Though He was in the form of God, did not count*

equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, And

taking on the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

– It is amazing that He came at all, let alone as a servant to die

Paul had a glimpse of the enormity of the hope of Immanuel

Philippians 3:7 *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*

Has the reality that God is with us in Christ Jesus had this type of impact on your life?

Immanuel-God with us

The angel & heavenly hosts of Luke 2 understood the significance of Immanuel:

V13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

It's no wonder the "angles long to look"-1 Peter 1:12

It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Why did God come?

He came to die

Matthew 1:21 *She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*

- **She will bear a Son**
- **You shall call His name Jesus**
- **He will save His people from their sins**

God has come in the man Jesus Christ (Immanuel) (Matt 1:23)
Jesus has finished the work needed to save His people (John 19:30)
We must respond by "repenting and believing" (Mark 1:15)

In light of all that God has done, our lives should reflect the praise, honor and obedience He is worthy-To God be the glory