

EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

INTRODUCTION

- The incarnation of Christ is the central event in all of history
- There are many prophecies concerning the birth of Christ, made centuries before the event
 - ✓ Jacob prophesied that the Messiah would be of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
 - ✓ Hosea prophesied of his flight to Egypt (Hosea 11:1)
 - ✓ Micah prophesied that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- The many fulfilled prophecies of Scripture are indubitable proof that the Bible is of divine origin
- In Isaiah 7:13 the Lord gave a sign to King Ahaz to comfort the nation in the face of the threat of a Syrian invasion
- Ahaz was a wicked king and rejected God's sign, yet the Lord still gave Israel a sign – a virgin would conceive and give birth to a Son named Immanuel
- As with many prophecies, this one has an initial and future fulfilment
- Its great fulfilment is with the incarnation of Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel – God with us
- “Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendour.” (Spurgeon)

I. GOD WITH US

A. His nature

1. He is eternal – without beginning or end (Isaiah 57:15)
2. He is infinite (Psalm 147:5)
3. He is perfect (Psalm 18:30)
4. He is incomprehensible (Psalm 145:3)

B. His works

1. He is the Creator of all things (Genesis 1:1)

2. He governs all things by his power and wisdom (Ephesians 1:11)
- C. His dealings with man
1. He is merciful and loving (Ephesians 2:4)
 2. He requires perfect obedience to His law (Leviticus 18:5)
 3. He will judge all mankind (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

II. GOD WITH US

- A. What is man?
1. Man is not merely a biological entity, evolved from lesser life forms
 2. We are the special creation of God, made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27)
 3. We are rational beings, capable of reason and aware of our own mortality
 4. We are accountable to God for our every thought, word and deed (Romans 14:12)
- B. Man was created to fellowship with and to glorify God (Revelation 4:11)
- C. Man has a soul as well as a body
1. The soul continues after the body is dead (James 2:26)
 2. The soul is of infinite worth (Mark 8:36-37)

III. GOD WITH US

- A. God and man originally were united in fellowship
1. This fellowship was broken by Adam's sin (Isaiah 59:2)
 - a. We are sinners by *imputation* (Romans 5:12,19)
 - b. We are sinners by *generation* (Psalm. 51:5)
 - c. We are sinners by *practice* (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
 2. Man is incapable of restoring this fellowship himself
- B. God Himself came into the world
1. Jesus is not an angel (Hebrews 1)
 2. He is God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1,14)
 3. He was born of a virgin
 - a. Our redemption required one of us, a fellow Man to die in our place

- b. And our redemption required a perfect, sinless Man to become our substitute
 - c. Only a virgin birth could accomplish this
 - 3. He laid aside his glory to become a man (2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:6-7)
 - 4. Jesus Christ is now the God-man
 - 5. Christ retains His humanity and eternally will retain it (1 Timothy 2:5; Colossians 2:9)
 - a. Christ's divine nature is omnipresent (Matthew 28:20)
 - b. Yet His human nature is in one place at one time (Acts 3:21)
 - 6. This union of divine and human is called the "hypostatic union"
 - 7. To err regarding the nature of Christ is to forfeit salvation – to be saved we must believe in the true Christ
- C. He was rejected by the world
 - 1. Mankind should have welcomed him with universal praise, worship and obedience
 - 2. Yet he was despised and rejected of men (Isaiah 53:3)
 - 3. He came unto his own and his own received him not (John 1:10,11)
 - 4. Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil (John 3:19-20)
 - 5. He is still rejected by the world today
- D. The purpose of his coming was to reconcile man with God (2 Corinthians 5:19)
 - 1. He lived a perfect, sinless life (1 Peter 2:22)
 - 2. He died a substitutionary death to atone for our sins (Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 3. He rose from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25)
 - 4. That great gulf that separated man from God has been bridged by the Lord Jesus Christ – now God and man can be reconciled through Christ, through Emmanuel, God with us
- E. His incarnation means he understands what we face in this life
 - 1. He knows what it is to suffer (Hebrews 5:2-8)

2. He knows what it is to be tempted (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15)
- F. God is with his people
1. In our lives (Isaiah 43:2)
 2. In our labours (1 Corinthians 3:9)
 3. In our trials and afflictions (Psalm 46:1)
 4. In our worship (Psalm 22:3)
 5. In death and in glory (Psalm 23:4; 73:24)

CONCLUSION

1. “By the light of nature, we see God as a God above us; by the light of the law, we see him as a God against us; but by the light of the gospel, we see him as Immanuel, God with us, in our own nature, and in our interest.” (Matthew Henry)
2. *Deists* teach that a “god” made all things, but he does not intervene with the world
3. But the true God is a *personal* God who dwells and communes with his people
4. Consider – where would we be without Emmanuel? We would be lost, without hope
5. Since Jesus is “God with us”, it is our duty to obey him
6. The first act of obedience to him is to repent of our sins and believe in him as our Lord and Saviour
7. Since he is “God with us”, we must devote our whole lives to his worship and service
8. “If Christ be God and died for me, there is nothing too great that I can do for Him.”
C.T. Studd.
9. The people of Christ’s day had different responses to his advent – some rejoiced, and some were troubled
10. What is your response?
11. As the Lord Jesus came the first time, so He will come again, not as a humble servant, but as King and Judge of the world. Does this comfort you or trouble you?
12. It is not enough to know *about* God, you must know Him personally and experientially by faith
13. Can you truly say that “God is with *me*” in life, in death, in eternity? (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6)
14. As John Wesley departed this world he lifted his arm in holy triumph and cried, “The best of all is, God is with us!”