

# Immanuel: God With Us

**Christmas - the day of celebrating Jesus Christ's birth  
A day to celebrate that God came to us.**

**Do you know that GOD is has come? To you? To be with you?**

**It's evident all throughout the scripture.**

Christophanies/Theophanies

- Genesis 2&3\*, God in Eden, planting a garden, making man, walking daily with them, driving them out
- Genesis 16, the Angel of the Lord to Hagar
- Genesis 18, to Abraham, Sarai...but also to inspect Sodom
- Genesis 11\*...came down to see Babel
- Genesis 14\*...Melchizedek
- Gen 32 God wrestling with Jacob
- Exodus 3:2 Moses, out of the burning bush

*List goes on and on...*

- Saul (Paul) on road to Damascus
- John on Patmos

**God has always been interested in people.**

**That's why He made us.**

**Wanting us to be HIS people. Like we were before the fall.**

**We are not an afterthought to him!**

He always intended to be with us.

**Deu 32:9-12 NKJV - For the LORD's portion [is] His people; Jacob [is] the place of His inheritance. "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, [So] the LORD alone led him, And [there was] no foreign god with him.**

**When we love someone, or miss someone, or need comfort, we tend to cling to things  
A teddy bear, a picture of a loved one (Castaway), a blanket (Linus?), comfort food**

**When we don't realize God is with us, or know him,**

### **we cling to other things to keep with us**

A rosary, my cross necklace(BC), pictures, statues, idols, the law

I think that's why we're always afraid to go to new places, speak to new people - even if God is leading us. Because we're afraid he's not with us.

**[Rom 8:28-32 NKJV] 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

**But God IS with us!**

**Jhn 14:16-20 NKJV - "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. "At that day you will know that I [am] in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**

**He gave us the Comforter! The Holy Spirit**

**And we are IN Jesus and him IN us?**

**What more do we need?**

The real gift at Christmas is knowing that in Jesus, we have all we need

**[Mat 6:25-34 NKJV] 25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, [will He] not much more [clothe] you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first the**

kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34  
 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things.  
 Sufficient for the day [is] its own trouble.

**We tend to worry about so much in our day and age...and Christmas turned into about how much can we get, things we need, but really, just things we want**

The decline of black friday from getting deals on gifts to getting deals on things we want for ourselves

Christmas giving erased with some generic winter holiday about getting  
 But the truth is, we need to get...we need to receive Him

***When we remove God, it's just us...alone***

**Israel under siege...**

God tells Isaiah to go speak to Ahaz of Judah

**Isa 7:10-15 NKJV - Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! [Is it] a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. "Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.**

Even in the midst of this guy's struggle, the national trial, God wants to give them a message...  
 A sign... that God will be with them...coming as a baby...

**Mat 1:18-25 NKJV - Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just [man], and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord**

**commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.**

**Immanuel - God with us**  
**Jesus = "YHWH is salvation"**

**God wanted to be with us to be our salvation**  
**HE HAD TO BE WITH US TO FREE US**

Like Moses, Joshua and the leaders of Israel

*The best leaders are with the people, from the people, of the people*

**The point was always to bring us back into a relationship with Him**

**It's not about doctrine** (although right doctrine is essential to knowing who He really is)

**It's not about living the right lifestyle** (although living rightly shows we know who He really is)

**It's about knowing Him personally...through the scriptures...through an open heart...and a changed life**

**Changed because God, who we used to not be with, is now with us.**

**When a baby is born, we welcome them into our family.**

**When Jesus was born God became a part of the human family**

(the outside of the time domain condition)

He walked with us

Talked with us

**And it was a miracle!**

**Do we still see Christmas as a miracle?**

1 : an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs the healing miracles described in the Gospels

2 : an extremely outstanding or unusual event, thing, or accomplishment The bridge is a miracle of engineering.

- **A Wedding in Cana**
- **Healing paralytic...forgiving him first**
- **Raising little girl back to life**
- **Lazarus**
- **Too numerous to write down...**

But, there's also another miracle...

**Jhn 3:3-8 NKJV - Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."**

**That when Jesus was born, it was so that we could be born again,**

born and welcomed into God's family.

We are welcome with God.

No matter what we've done. Who we think we are. How good or bad we've been

**We are welcome with God because of Jesus.**

Because he is with us

**Rom 8:31-39 NKJV - What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? [It is] God who justifies. Who [is] he who condemns? [It is] Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Rom 5:6-11, 15 NKJV - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been**

reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only [that], but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. ... But the free gift [is] not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

**God wanted nothing more than to be with us.**

He showed up over and over throughout the Bible in history, but those were only visits

He came as a baby to live with us and die for us. And even though he rose again, his physical time on earth was only temporary.

**Because the ultimate goal, the ultimate plan, is that we would be with him forever, in heaven.**

Luk 23:39-43 NKJV - Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? "And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

This Christmas...remember if you know, if you never knew, **KNOW** that God wants to be with you.

But we have to let him.

If you know him, whatever you're going through, or will go through. He is with you. Look for him. Allow him to minister to you. **THERE'S NOTHING YOU'VE DONE** that will keep him away if you just turn to him.

If you don't know him, know him. He loves you. He cares for you. Even if you feel abandoned. You don't have to make yourself right - be like him

Even if you're alone...feel alone...close to everyone you love physically but far from them emotionally, or vice versa...

**God is with us. That is the miracle of Christmas.**

**It is the one miracle**

**we all need,**

**every day,**

**all the time.**