

Emmanuel – God with us

Matthew 1:18-23 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

1) It's all of God

- Everything about the birth of Jesus was of God and impossible to have been replicated in order to attempt to fulfil prophecy.
- Prophecies of Jesus' birth
 - Born in the tribe of Judah in the line of David
 - Prophecy: 2 Samuel 7:11-13 The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
 - Fulfilment: Luke 2:1-4 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.
So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.
 - Born in Bethlehem
 - Prophecy: Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”
 - Fulfilment: Luke 2:4-7 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
 - A Star from Jacob would arise
 - Prophecy: Numbers 24:17 A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the people of Sheth.
 - Fulfilment: Matthew 2:1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”
 - He would escape to Egypt
 - Prophecy: Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
 - Fulfilment: Matthew 2:13-15 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”
So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”
 - Born of a virgin
 - Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
 - Fulfilment Matthew 1:20-23 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is

conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

- Luke 1:30-35 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

2) God with us

- All the fulfillments of these prophecies ratify the fact that the birth of Jesus is not only all of God, but that God Himself became flesh and God is with us.
- The reality of God being with us is that we know that we serve a God who understands us completely
 - Hebrews 4:15 We do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet he did not sin.
 - When God became a man and lived amongst us, He experienced everything that we experience – hunger and thirst, pain, exhaustion, temptation, sadness, betrayal, and joy.
- How often we call on God in our time of need wondering if He even understands what we’re enduring.
 - The answer to that wondering is yes, he does understand everything you’re enduring because He lived as a man.
 - He not only understands, but He empathises with us – to empathise means to share someone else’s feelings and situations
- God doesn’t only empathise with us; He helps us in our weaknesses
- God came down to deliver the Israelites from Egypt
 - Exodus 3:7-8 The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- God helped Paul with his thorn in his flesh
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
- God helps us in our spiritual life
 - Romans 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.
- Ultimately, as a man God brought us the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with Himself, and the hope of eternal life
 - As a man He died and rose again giving us the hope of the resurrection

3) What does this mean for us?

- Because God became a man, we don’t only worship God, but we know Him in a personal relationship
- Because He empathises with us, we can depend on Him in everyday life.
- We know the love of God because love became a man
- His assurance that He will never leave nor forsake us became a reality for us