



Play “God with Us” Video (<https://youtu.be/jvau2wd7SXk>)

OPENING STORY

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Out of sight, out of mind?” It’s easy for us to believe that God is some distant being that was very active in creation, but ultimately left us alone to fend for ourselves. Is that the story of the gospel? Is our God a distant and unreachable God?

There is an incredible prophecy in the Old Testament book of Isaiah that uses a word for the coming Messiah that is the reason we even celebrate the Christmas season. Let’s read this together.

READ ISAIAH 7:14

*Focus on or highlight the word **Immanuel** in this passage*

This prophecy is for the future sign that will be born of the virgin and the name will be Immanuel. We have mentioned this before, but names in the Old Testament mean a lot more than our names mean today. So, the follow up question we would have is...

What does the name Immanuel mean?

Immanuel is an OT name given to Jesus, meaning “God with us”. Here in Isaiah the name signified God’s salvation and judgment for Judah; **Isa 8:7-10** The original fulfillment of the Immanuel prophecy would bring judgment on Judah; **Mt 1:22-23** Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled through the virginal conception of Jesus Christ.

Christmas is the day of Immanuel. It’s the day that we have been expectantly waiting for through our time celebrating the Advent season. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. He was born as a baby and became a man, but He was more than a baby and more than a man, now Immanuel - God with us.

The One we celebrate today is called Immanuel because He is God with us. For Jesus, realizing that the corruption of man (sin) would not be undone except, simply, by dying, yet being immortal and the Son

of the Father was not able to die. For this reason, He “became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).” Jesus became man to die, so that His death might be sufficient for all. Through His death, sin was defeated and by the grace of the resurrection corruption will cease.

The Christmas story is not about a God who has ever been distant. God has always been working in our midst. In the Old Testament, we see God working in a people that are set apart for their good and His glory, in the New Testament we see God with us in the life of Jesus Christ, and today we have God living inside of us through the Holy Spirit indwelling us. Let’s look at each of these a little closer, as we celebrate the Christmas Story – God with Us.

HOW GOD REVEALED HIMSELF TO US

In Old Testament times, God often appeared to His people in frightening form.

- To the people of Israel, He appeared as a pillar of fire (Exodus 13:21). Although the pillars guided Israel to a relationship with Him, it was still fire and a pillar of fire is frightening!
- To Job, he appeared as a tornado, which is one of the scariest things in the world (Job 38:1).
- On Mount Sinai, God’s cloud of glory was so magnificent and awesome, that no one dared approach (Exodus 19:12; 24:15-17).

God didn’t always reveal Himself in frightening ways, though. In 1 Kings 19 we see that God specifically wasn’t revealed to Elijah by an incredible wind, a massive earthquake, and a whirlwind of fire. Rather, God was found in the quiet whisper. God incarnate, as a vulnerable baby, is not exactly what God’s people expected and so many of them missed Him. What could God be teaching us in the story of Immanuel?

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

So, it came as an incredible surprise when God Himself came to Earth as a baby. The Creator of the Universe became vulnerable, open, and accessible, but why did He do this? The Son sat at the right hand of that Father on His Kingly throne, but now we see that

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com