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The LIFEhouse Church
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“God with Us,” The First Gift of Christmas

The Birth of Jesus Christ

“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and 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 be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” --which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew tells us that all this happened to Mary and his family to fulfill prophecy, and then he quotes **Isaiah 7:14**.

I. The Meaning of Immanuel:

Immanuel is God expressing His divine love to us

Matthew tells us Immanuel means—"God with us." God left heaven and took up residence among his creatures in the person of Jesus Christ. "God with us," also expresses the very heart of God, informing earth, that God is love and loves each one of us.

1 John 4:10

II. The Ministry of Immanuel

Immanuel is God's redemptive relationship for us

In His stepping downward, Jesus was willing to suffer humiliation and degradation even to **becoming obedient to the point of death.**

"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins"(**Matthew 1:21**)

(Philippians 2:5-11)

John writes...

- John 1:1-2, 14
- John 3:16-17

Infinite possibilities were available for Immanuel's birth. But what God **COULD** have done is not what He did! That was not the way He wanted to do things. God deliberately chose the plain, simple, ordinary, poor, neglected and overlooked in order that no one anywhere could ever feel unworthy of His attention and care. It may surprise you to know **IN HIS SIGHT, you may be the Most likely person through whom He decides to work tomorrow morning.** That is the way He works. And whom He uses and how He uses them and when and where is His decision, not ours.