

December 16, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Mt. 1:22-23 *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”).* (NIV)

The prophet mentioned here is Isaiah and specifically the verse is Isaiah 7:14. It is important to note that Immanuel was not His given name, but an identifier similar to Christ. We know that Jesus was His given name and Christ is His title. Jesus, the Christ, is more valuable for us to understand. So, in this case, Immanuel is His title and is pragmatic to His purpose. He came to dwell among us. His purpose was spelled out in this moniker. It is much like the phrase uttered by John the Baptist when he saw Jesus: **John 1:29** *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!”* (NIV)

This phrase could also be rightly translated, *He will be called ‘the God Who has come to be with us.’* And certainly, that is Who He is. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is the God Who has come to be with us. There is no better reason for us to celebrate His appearance into human history. That the God of the universe would humble Himself and put on flesh, be born of a woman, and placed in a lowly sheep stall, is amazing. And even more so that He would not only live a sinless life, but that He would also take on the ‘sin of the world’ to pay our sin-debt. This is the most moving and significant act of love in the history of history. God is with us. He is not safely hidden behind some celestial wall. He is right here, right now, to anyone who will call upon Him. Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Dear LORD, You are Immanuel, God with us. Thank You that You live in the hearts of all believers and that You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Jesus Name, Amen