

WE SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL, PT. 2 (MATTHEW 1-2:23)

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Matthew 1:18-25 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph [they were married], before they came together [consumated their marriage], 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 ["love will cover a multitude of sins"-**1 Peter 4:8**, at least what Joseph was thinking], 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,**" [**Isaiah 7:14**] 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."
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Before we get to the rest of the story involving Joseph and Mary, and what would soon be baby Jesus, Joseph was told, as we just read, "you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Then Joseph was told also, that Mary would "bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." "They shall call His name Immanuel", God with us, which is one of the many attributes given to Christ Jesus, of what He means to us and is for us, just as Jesus is our Savior, the One who will save us from our sins. Joseph and Mary did name Him Jesus, Iesous in the Greek, and Yehoshua in Hebrew. Isaiah, the prophet, who was given by God numerous prophesies concerning Christ Jesus, such as what was just read in Matthew 1, He also wrote of Him saying, "For **unto us** a Child is born, **unto us** a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (**Isaiah 9:6**) Isaiah was speaking to the divinity of Christ, that He would be God incarnate. And that word peace (Prince of Peace) is the Hebrew word of the root "shalom". Listen to what Strong's Lexicon says about that word shalom. "Shalom is a multifaceted Hebrew word that encompasses a range of meanings related to **peace and completeness**. It signifies not only the absence of conflict but also the presence of positive blessings such as health, safety, and prosperity. [kind of like us saying to someone "be blessed"] **Shalom is used to describe harmonious relationships between individuals, nations, and between God and humanity.** [There is only one way that we will truly have peace, within ourselves, with others, and with God-through Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace] It also conveys a sense of wholeness and well-being,

both physically and spiritually."¹ Jesus spoke of that "peace" to His disciples just before He was to leave them. He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (**John 14:27**) Very similar to the Hebrew word "shalom" then is that Greek word "eirene" (ay-ray-nay) used by Jesus. Its root is "eiro" which means "to join" or "to tie together into a whole"², similar to shalom, which can mean individually or with others and with God. Speaking shalom to someone, may be in one's mind to just be saying, "peace, brother", like, just a greeting. Yet with a better understanding of that word one may be really saying to someone, "may you have wholeness, completeness, within yourself, with others and with God". As Jesus spoke the beatitude, the divine blessing saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (**Matthew 5:9**), that coincides with Jesus saying "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins", and "they shall call His name Immanuel", "God with us".

The reality of God being with us, is revealed to us as we turn to Him, seeking Him, His will, and His Way. If we demonstrate or respond to God by our actions that we don't want His will or His Way or His Righteousness, we will not have His divine blessing of His peace. We are all being called by God to believe on Jesus as being the Christ, the Anointed One of God, who will save us from our sins. We are then to repent of our sins (metanoeo), turning to God for forgiveness of our sins, and to receive Him and His Righteousness, to receive the Holy Spirit, so as to be, born-again, and we are turning away from continuing to sin against God. From there, as children of God, we are then led by the Spirit of God, as He is Immanuel, God is with us. The evidence is shown to us as well as others by the fruit of the Spirit, that not only works in us, but comes out of us, which is His "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) We ALL are then to be abiding in Him as Jesus said, as He is the vine and we are the branches, He is our very life-source (**John 15**), as Jesus Himself said without Him we can do nothing, that goes for physically as well as spiritually as He "upholds all things by the word of His power" (**Hebrews 1:3**). At any given time He can say, "your time is done" or it can go the other way too, where He says, "keep going, I've got you, shalom (eirene)". Jesus tells us, that He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me" (**John 14:6**). That is a statement of fact, but it is also to me a promise from Jesus. I am putting my wholehearted trust in Jesus. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for

1 <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7965.htm>

2 <https://biblehub.com/greek/1515.htm>

everyone who believes, for the Jew [Ioudaios-ee-oo-dah-yos] first and also for the Greek [hellane-where Hellenist derives-Greek culture]."

As I said yesterday, as the Christmas season is upon us, we, as Christians, celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus. We are then reminded of how the Israelites in times past were waiting for the promised Messiah yet most of them mistakingly were also looking for the promised ruler who would be Immanuel, God with us, as the prophet Isaiah stated, "and the government will be upon His shoulder". Also, Gabriel, an angel of the Lord, spoke to Mary saying, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall **call His name Jesus**. [so both Joseph and Mary knew to call His name Jesus] He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**" Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you**; therefore, also, that **Holy One** who is to be born will be called the Son of God." (**Luke 1:30-35**) By the wisdom of God and by His incredible grace, the Israelites, for the most part, were blinded from the truth of the Holy One, Immanuel so that all the other nations, the Gentiles, could find Him and receive Him as their Lord, God, and Savior, as it is written, "you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Yet, as we know, that was not just for the Jews, the Israelites. Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" (**Matthew 28:18-20**) The Apostle Peter, later on, was led by God to go to the house of Cornelius, who was not an Israelite. Peter said to Cornelius and His household, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." (**Acts 10:34-35**) After that they received the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised this, "**If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—**" (**John 14:15-16**) Similarly, the Apostle Peter, in speaking to the High Priest and the Chief Priests, who had told Peter and the other apostles to stop preaching Christ Jesus, he said, "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be **Prince and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit **whom God has given to those who obey Him.**" (**Acts 5:29-32**) Right after Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit to those who obey God, He said

this, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."** (John 14:23) Immanuel, God with us! "If God is for us [and is with us and in 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?" (Romans 8:31-32) You see, we love God because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

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Luke 2:1-20 "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace**, goodwill toward men!" [peace=eirene] So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made [f]widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

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Matthew 2:1-6 "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is

written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

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That was a paraphrasing of the prophesy given to Micah that says, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah [fruitful house of bread], though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, **whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**" (Micah 5:2) Not only does that prophesy speak of Jesus, the Messiah, coming from Bethlehem but that He is "from of old, from everlasting." Also we know, looking forward, that as Jesus declared, "I am the Bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

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Matthew 2:7-18 "Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." [**Hosea 11:1**] Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." [**Jeremiah 31:15**]

Matthew 2:19-23 (The Home in Nazareth) "Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came

into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus [ar-kuh-lay-us] was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." "

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That was not a prophetic Scripture but is considered to be known for its concept that Nazarenes were not thought well of by the Jews. As Isaiah the prophet spoke of Jesus saying, "He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him." (**Isaiah 53:3**) Combined then, we get a glimpse of that when the Apostle Philip told Nathanael that they had found the Christ who was of Nazareth, "Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" " (**John 1:46**) As the saying goes, "your perspective influences your actions", and then also "your going to get out of it what you put into it". Is Christ Jesus just a Savior to you, or is He also Immanuel God with us? God spoke to His people, the Israelites, by saying, "But from there [after they had repented and turned back to God] you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul." (**Deuteronomy 4:29**) Yes Christ Jesus is our Savior, our Redeemer, AND He is Immanuel, God is with us, so that we are to love God (as He loves us) with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then to love others as ourselves. (**Mark 12:29-31**) King David truly acknowledged God as Immanuel, God with us, as he said in **Psalms 18**, "I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." Yet he longed for more of His presence saying, "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." (**Psalms 27:4**) Then David also said, "When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek." (**Psalms 27:8**) Even though Moses was with God and had conversations with God on the top of Mt. Sinai, he knew there was more to God as he said to God, "Please, show me Your glory." (**Exodus 33:18**) Moses ended up having to wear a veil over his face because it glowed from his faint glimpse of the glory of God. "You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" and "They shall call His name Immanuel", God with us. Are you looking for to that, that is, seeking Him? After Jesus had given the parable of the wheat and the tares, and the angels will separate the (bad) tares from the (good) wheat, Jesus said, "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (**Matthew 13:43**) Ah, Yes Lord, show us your glory! Immanuel, God with us!!!