



PREACH THE
WORD
It's Still All About
Jesus

Incarnation of Immanuel

Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 5:12-21 John 1:1-18

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ONE OF THE WAYS THAT CHRISTMAS STORY is taught to us in the Bible is that God Himself has come into the world!

The Creator of the Heavens and the Earth and everything in them was born in a manger in Bethlehem!

The all-powerful, eternal, Lord God Almighty was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

One of the most familiar **Christmas prophecies** in the Old Testament predicted this. Remember this prophecy from Isaiah?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel**. Isaiah 7:14

IMMANUEL is a name that means “**God with us**”. “**God with us**” could be the summary of the entire Christmas story! **Immanuel**, “**God with us**”, accurately describes Who Jesus is: He is the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity,

*God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made.*

This is Jesus! He is *God with us*: He is IMMANUEL! This is who was born in Bethlehem!

The Gospel of John explains how God is with us. John introduces us to the idea of incarnation: **God in the flesh**.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. . . In Him was **LIFE**, and the life was the **LIGHT** of men. . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God *became flesh* ... and dwelt among us. The Latin word for that is *incarnate*; or *incarnation*. Jesus is God *incarnate, in the flesh*, born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Jesus is described as “*dwelling*” among us. The word picture is that He “tented” with us. It is an Old Testament image that goes back to when the Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years.

They were journeying from Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses was leading them, and God was present with them in the **Tabernacle**. The **Tabernacle** was essentially “**God’s Tent**” right in the middle of all the Israelites’ tents --> **Literally!** The **Tabernacle**, God’s “tent”, was right in the middle, and all the Israelites set up their tents by tribes all around it! The **Tabernacle** signaled that God was present with His people; it reminded them that God rescued them from Egypt, He forgave their sins, He heard their prayers, He watched over them, and He protected them from their enemies.

The same words are now used for Jesus!! Jesus is right in the middle of mankind. He is born in Bethlehem. Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem signaled that God is present on earth; He came into the world to forgive our sins, He hears our prayers, He watches over our lives, and He protects us from our enemies.

The Christology of Christmas is that God is *in flesh* in the Person of Jesus, born in Bethlehem.
We regularly confess this as Jesus being
“*conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.*”

Jesus is God *in the flesh*; God *incarnate*, who “*tents*” among us as our Savior! **Christmas is the *Incarnation of Immanuel*.**

Just as God was among His Old Testament people to save them and lead them to the Promised Land; so too Jesus is among us to save us and lead us to the Promised Land of Heaven.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus’ work of salvation is described as **LIGHT** and **LIFE**. Jesus our God and Creator came into this sin darkened and lifeless

world to bring **LIGHT AND LIFE** to all people. He is re-creating the world by bring **LIGHT AND LIFE** back to it!

Just as Adam brought death and darkness into the “Old Creation”, Jesus now brings **LIFE AND LIGHT** into the world. Salvation is a “*New Creation!*” Jesus restores what Adam destroyed!

LIGHT AND LIFE are words of Gospel; they are “good news” to us who suffer in many and various ways because of Adam’s sin and disobedience.

Jesus doesn’t save us by His birth in Bethlehem, but by His death in Jerusalem. One way to think about Jesus is that His entire life is a journey to the cross. God “*became flesh*” and “*tented among us*” so that He could *pay for our sins* and *reconcile us to God the Father*. He does that through His perfect life and His sacrificial death. Because of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, you have been given **LIGHT AND LIFE** in Christ! You have peace with God; your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life. You are a *New Creation* in Christ --> the old is gone and the new is here! Because of the “*Incarnation of Immanuel*”, you have been given the **LIGHT AND LIFE** of eternal salvation!

Jesus is **Immanuel**, *God with us*

Jesus is God **incarnate**: *God in the flesh*

God **became flesh**, and **dwelt** among us to be our Savior.

This same God **remains** with you and **dwells** among you through His Word and Sacraments.

The importance of the Word and Sacraments is that God is present with you and He continues to give you the **LIGHT AND LIFE of eternal salvation throughout your life.** The altar area is like “God’s tent” among us; the pulpit, altar, and baptismal font reminds us that **GOD IS WITH US** through His Word and Sacraments.

The Bible is the “**Word of God**”; it is the **voice of Jesus** as He continues to speak words of **LIFE AND LIGHT** to you. The Lord works through His Word to show you your sin, lead you to repentance, and to forgive your sins.

You hear the Good News about Jesus' death and resurrection and faith is created, strengthened, and deepened. The Word of God creates a conviction within you of what is right and wrong; good and evil; truth and error. You live your life in the light of this conviction; and by the truth of God's Holy Word. **Jesus is Immanuel: He remains with you through His Holy Word!**

Jesus dwells with you perpetually and continuously through **Holy Baptism**. In Baptism, you were united to Christ; you were united with God Himself in His death, burial and resurrection; your sinful nature has died and was buried, you now live in the **LIFE AND LIGHT** of Christ! **In Baptism, your identity is now tied together with Christ.** It changes everything about you. Christ now dwells within you *personally*; your world view is shaped by Him; your values, morals, and ethics are Christ-centered; your life, words, and actions reflect God's **LIFE AND LIGHT**! **Jesus is Immanuel: He remains with you through Holy Baptism!**

Jesus dwells with you in **Holy Communion**. Holy Communion is where you receive Christ's very own body and blood into your very own body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins. The very real presence of the Lord Jesus is here! The same **flesh** that was in the manger of Bethlehem and on the cross in Jerusalem is here in Holy Communion. Here you are renewed in the **LIFE AND LIGHT** of Christ! **Jesus is Immanuel: He remains with you through Holy Communion!**

We do not worship a distant God; nor an absent Savior! Jesus is our God, Creator, and Savior.

- ⇒ Jesus is **Immanuel**, God with us, Who was born in Bethlehem.
- ⇒ Jesus is God **incarnate**, God *in the flesh* in order to die and rise again on the Third Day.
- ⇒ In Jesus, you are given the **LIGHT AND LIFE** of eternal salvation.
- ⇒ Jesus continues to "tent" among us in His Word and Sacraments.

Take time to think this through:

Christmas is the *Incarnation of Immanuel!*

AMEN!