

## IMMANUEL (#1)

“Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.” (Phil.2:9)

The theme of our Sunday Christmas special is taken from Phil.2:9 – “The name which is above every name.” We will study four different names associated with the birth of Jesus Christ that attribute to our theme.

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| • On Dec.2 and 9, | we will study His prophetic name.     | <b>Immanuel</b>      |
| • On Dec.16,      | we will study His crucifixion name.   | Jesus (John 19:19)   |
| • On Dec.23,      | we will study His divine family name. | Son of the Most High |
| • On Dec.30,      | we will study His genetic birth name. | Only Begotten        |

We will begin by studying the first of two lessons on His prophetic name, Immanuel. In the first lesson, we will study the historical significance of the name, Immanuel. In the second lesson, we will study the theological significance of the name, Immanuel.

<b>Today’s lesson will study five aspects of the historical significance of His prophetic name, Immanuel.</b>
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### **1. The historical background to His prophetic name, Immanuel, is the messianic prophecy of Isaiah in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC.**

Familiarizing ourselves with the historical background to this messianic prophecy should help us understand Gabriel’s use of it with the birth of Jesus Christ (Matt.1:22-23; Isa.7:14).

Isaiah gave this prophecy of Immanuel to King Ahaz of Judah during the Syro-Ephramite war (Isa.7-9). During this prophecy, Isaiah warned King Ahaz to not join a counteralliance with Assyria against Syria and Ephraim. However, King Ahaz was afraid to not join with Assyria. Isaiah told King Ahaz to ask for a sign of the Lord’s deliverance. But he refused this advice and the Lord gave the sign of Immanuel as a warning of the coming of the 5<sup>th</sup> upon Judah (Isa.7:12-17; 8:10; 1 Cor.1:22-24/ tongues).

### **2. The birth of Immanuel was a prophetic sign of the coming judgment of the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of divine discipline upon Judah (Lev.26; Ezek.28; Isa.7:17-25).**

It was 1 of 3 prophetic signs of Isaiah regarding the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of divine discipline upon Judah (Isa.7:14/VB; Isa.53/ crucifixion; and Isa.28:11; 1 Cor.14:21-22).

Notice that Matthew emphasized the **fulfillment** of the birth part of the prophecy of Immanuel (Matt.1:22-23).

At the same time, notice that Gabriel personalized this part to Joseph (Matt.1:18-24).

### **3. Like King Ahaz, the prophetic message of Immanuel was brought to Joseph at a time of great personal struggle regarding the right thing to do.**

Both men were struggling with an enormous crisis in their lives. Both men were struggling with an enormous problem that neither of them had brought on themselves.

For Joseph, the struggle was whether to divorce Mary privately (Deut.22) or publicly (Deut.24). Joseph was looking in the right book, the Bible, but in the wrong place Deuteronomy. Joseph did you exhaust all the doctrinal possibilities? Joseph did you seek God for the correct answer?

“But if you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)

#### 4. **God sent Gabriel to bring Joseph a specific doctrinal proposal that he had not considered (Isa.7:14).**

Sometimes God has to bring us the divine solution to our greatest problems because we have overlooked James 1:5. This was true for King Ahaz and Joseph and maybe YOU.

The doctrinal solution sent to Joseph was the miraculous conception of a virgin daughter of Judah of the house of David who would give birth to Immanuel (Matt.1:23; Isa.7:14; Luke 2:1-7). Apparently it was to close to home (subjectivity) for Joseph to consider until hit by the proverbial two-by-four.

#### 5. **Every often the doctrinal solution to your great problem is very closely related to the problem as Joseph’s and difficult to see objectively.**

- Joseph’s problem: Mary’s pregnant and it’s not mine (adultery).
- One doctrinal solution: Divorce based on word of God (Deut.22-24)
- Another possible solution: Do not break the marriage covenant (Mal.2:14-16)
- Correct doctrinal solution: Miraculous conception based on the word of God (Isa.7:14)

Can you wrap your faith around this doctrinal principle today? **Every circumstance in the CWL, whether considered good, bad or ugly has been predetermined in the Plan of God for divine good!**

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom.8:28)

**The question is:** Will you allow God to work all the things towards divine good?

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil.4:6-7)

**Here is the Christmas message for all of us today: GOD IS WITH US (Immanuel)!**

Gabriel’s message to Joseph was not to change his circumstances (engagement to Mary nor her pregnancy) but to trust that GOD WAS WITH HIM and would bring him through this difficult time and he would see the divine good in it.

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the **will of God** is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom.12:2)

You have a greater counselor than Gabriel living in you, The Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.6:19)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.” (John 14:16, NIV)