



Emmanuel - God With Us!

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21).

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“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus” (Matthew 1:18-25).

How reassuring to know that one of the names of Jesus is “Emmanuel” meaning “God with us”. The birth of Jesus not only fulfilled great prophecies but also brought down God to the reach of man. Note the following salient points:

- 1) Mary was espoused to Joseph but yet married when she was “found with a child of the Holy Ghost” (vs 18), fulfilling the prophecy of the virgin birth of Jesus.
- 2) Joseph, unsure of what hath happened contemplated terminating the engagement but “being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily” (vs 19). Just people do not indulge in the devil’s work of false accusations, criticisms, publicly disgracing and humiliating others.
- 3) Joseph intended to simply walk away quietly. “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream...” (vs 20). This divine intervention brought revelation knowledge and insight that changed his mind.
- 4) Despite his decision to continue with the rela-

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tionship, he maintained such a high level of chastity that facilitated the fulfilment of the prophecy of a virgin birth of Jesus, because he “knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus” (vs 25). It is a Godly character to maintain self discipline, self-control and temperament, while focusing on the right.

- 5) The angel gave him not only the name but also the purpose of Jesus’ coming into the world “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins” (vs 21). Knowing your purpose in life, will enable you to fulfil it. Do you know your purpose in life?
- 6) His birth fulfilled the prophecy of “Emmanuel, God with us” (vs 22-23). May your life bring about fulfilment of divine prophecies for this generation.
- 7) Joseph could have simply dismissed what had happened as mere nocturnal activity of dream. The Bible confirmed that when he woke up “from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife” (vs 24). This was truly a marriage made in heaven!

Jesus still saves today. His name and His blood has never lost its power to those who believe but remain elusive to those who do not (See Acts 19:15). Contrary to common misconceptions Christianity is not a white man’s religion that is out of touch with the realities of contemporary spiritism of various cultures. I am a living testimony of the power in the name and blood of Jesus to save, heal, deliver anywhere in the world. Note this: **“...The Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you”** (2 Chronicles 15:1-2).