



INTRODUCTION: This is the account of when Mary finds out that she is going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit who would be none other than the promised Messiah. Scared of his reaction, she tells Joseph, but he doesn't believe her story and is trying to figure out how to divorce Mary privately. It is speculated by many scholars that Mary was probably about 15 years of age at the time.

But it is at this despairing moment that Joseph gets an encouraging announcement from an angel (1:20-21). He is comforted because he would raise the very child who would be the Messiah. Jesus means Savior.

Joseph was comforted when he thought of the Old Testament prophesy (Matthew 1:22-23). No doubt, the very name **Emmanuel** gave him comfort. The name Emmanuel means God with us.

I. EMMANUEL MEANS GOD WITH US IN PERSON (MATTHEW 1:21)

Joseph could rejoice now that he knew that the child that caused such heartache was, in reality, "God with Him". He went from shame to glory. He went from thinking about divorce from an unfaithful bride, to becoming the human "father-figure" of the Messiah.

Many people out there do not want to admit that Jesus Christ was God in person. If Jesus was God in the form of man, they would have to admit that they are sinners. They would have to admit that their sin was the reason Christ came and died on the cross. They would have to see themselves as they are. Jesus means Savior (1:21).

John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

II. EMMANUEL MEANS GOD WITH US IN PRESENCE (MATTHEW 1:20)

Psalms 139:4-10, "4 For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. 5 Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. 7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

Joseph knew what was right to do when he knew God was with him in presence

III. EMMANUEL MEANS GOD WITH US IN POWER (28:19-20)

Joseph knew he'd be alright when he knew God was with him in power.

1. God is with you in power as you witness to your friends and family.

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power (God with us in Power), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Matthew 28:18-20, "18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (God with us in Power). 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

2. God is with you in power as you overcome temptation.

Daniel 3:17, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace (God with us in Power), and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way (God with us in Power) to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."