

Emmanuel - God With Us

Sunday AM, December 24, 2023

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Straight Paths Bible Church

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14-17 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

- I. Who was this babe born in a stable and laid in a manger so long ago?
- A. Obviously, his birth was something extremely special and unique; it was not just another man-child born into this sin-cursed world.
 - B. He was not another wise man or philosopher; not the Jewish version of Socrates.
 - C. He was not a social reformer, like so many through all the millennia before and after Him; like Marx and Lenin.
 - D. He was not a conqueror that would expand his influence over the world like Alexander the Great, Napoleon, or Hitler.
 - E. He was not a prophet because there were many prophets before Him that desired to see his day:

Matthew 13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

- F. He was not an angel, because angels are not sons of God, but ministers of God.
 - 1. Angels could announce his birth, and celebrate his birth, but they could not be what He was.
 - 2. They could minister to Him and come at his command if He called twelve legions of them, but they could never be what He was.
 - 3. Angels could never be incarnate because they are spiritual beings and the only spiritual being who has ever been made flesh is Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.
- II. The WORD was made flesh...
- A. Flesh was not made divine; the Divine was made flesh. (Important fact)
 - B. The birth of Christ is about Almighty God, the Holy One, the Creator of all things, being made a man, not man being made holy, or becoming a son of God.
 - 1. The life of Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection were about men becoming sons of God, and being made holy, but his birth was not about that.
 - C. The Son of God became the Son of man.
 - D. The baby Jesus was not a body that God influenced and guided, but was the very Word of God made flesh and dwelling among us.
 - E. The Word was not made a special kind of flesh, but the same flesh, blood, and bone as all who are made in his image and likeness.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

- F. The Word that created man in his own image and likeness assumed that image and likeness that He had created.
 - 1. He humbled himself and clothed himself within the same bounds and limitations that He had designed for that which was made in his likeness.
- G. The Word, that source of all power, that created all things with one utterance, was made into the weakest form of a man on earth – a babe, and entered this world in one of the lowest places on earth, a stable.
 - 1. Unable to utter a single word.
 - 2. Unable to live without the aid of others.
 - 3. Unable to sustain his life without the care and ministering of others.
- H. In Hebrews we read it put like this: He “took on him” the seed of Abraham.

Hebrews 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

- 1. He was not changed from what He was, but He assumed what He was not.

Philippians 2:7-8 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- I. His birth was a private affair, with only a few invited and only a few privy to the miracle of all the ages that had just taken place.
- J. His death was a public spectacle that changed the course of civilization and human history, and the eternal destiny of an innumerable multitude of people, from all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues.

III. The Word must be made flesh or the redemption of man was impossible.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

- A. Absolutely nothing else could ever suffice to reconcile man to God.
- B. It was not God that needed to be reconciled to man, but man that had to be reconciled to God.
 - 1. God had never moved or changed his position, but man had.
 - 2. God never stopped loving man, but man surely stopped loving God.
 - 3. In spite of man’s universal sinfulness God had never stopped his kindness and goodness toward man, but man had become hostile toward God and nurtured a deep hatred toward Him.
- C. No pitiful sacrifice, no measly good works of man, could ever correct the blind error of man’s darkened heart and mind.
- D. Man was lost and blinded by his own pride and selfishness and doomed for separation from God for eternity.
- E. But in a poor little town called Bethlehem, in a stable where the animals were kept, God revealed to the world that sinful man was lost but not abandoned.
- F. What was inconceivable for man became conceivable for even a child.
- G. What was not accessible became approachable to whosoever will come.

Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth,

- H. And now the Word was made a partaker of that blood, and that flesh.
- I. So God and man meet in Bethlehem and look each other in the face for the first time.
- J. So how big a deal is this, and how important is it? What are the consequences?
- K. He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and that is exactly what the consequences have been.
- L. In this "post-Christian" world we now live in here is a truth to ponder and to remember:
- M. God obviously does not reckon by how great the loss, but by how great the gain. From the human perspective, looking through a glass darkly, and only knowing and seeing in part, we are see the great loss. What we have not seen yet is the great gain that eternity holds for the redeemed, and for the kingdom of God.

Luke 14:10

"Friend, go up higher."

When first the life of grace begins in the soul, we do indeed draw near to God, but it is with great fear and trembling. The soul conscious of guilt, and humbled thereby, is overawed with the solemnity of its position; it is cast to the earth by a sense of the grandeur of Jehovah, in whose presence it stands. With unfeigned bashfulness it takes the lowest room.

But, in after life, as the Christian grows in grace, although he will never forget the solemnity of his position, and will never lose that holy awe which must encompass a gracious man when he is in the presence of the God who can create or can destroy; yet his fear has all its terror taken out of it; it becomes a holy reverence, and no more an overshadowing dread. He is called up higher, to greater access to God in Christ Jesus. Then the man of God, walking amid the splendours of Deity, and veiling his face like the glorious cherubim, with those twin wings, the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ, will, reverent and bowed in spirit, approach the throne; and seeing there a God of love, of goodness, and of mercy, he will realize rather the covenant character of God than His absolute Deity. **He will see in God rather His goodness than His greatness, and more of His love than of His majesty.** Then will the soul, bowing still as humbly as aforetime, enjoy a more sacred liberty of intercession; for while prostrate before the glory of the Infinite God, **it will be sustained by the refreshing consciousness of being in the presence of boundless mercy and infinite love, and by the realization of acceptance "in the Beloved."** Thus the believer is bidden to come up higher, and is enabled to exercise the privilege of rejoicing in God, and drawing near to Him in holy confidence, saying, "Abba, Father."

"So may we go from strength to strength,
And daily grow in grace,
Till in Thine image raised at length,
We see Thee face to face."

Alpha and Omega
Bright and Morning Star
Bread of Life
Counsellor
Consolation of Israel
Christ
Dayspring from on high
Emmanuel (God with us)
Everlasting Father
God incarnate
Hope of Israel

Intercessor
The Just One
Jehova
Jesus
King of Kings
Light of life
Light of the world
Lord of Lords
Lamb of God
Messiah
Mediator
The Mighty God
The Man Christ Jesus
Only begotten Son of God
Only Potentate
Prince of life

Prince of peace
Redeemer
The Resurrection and the life
The Savior
The Son of the highest
The Son of David
Salvation (Simeon)
The Truth

The only Undefined Son of man
The Victor
The Way
Wonderful
Virgin born
Psalm 50:2 Out of Zion, the perfection of
beauty, God hath shined.

That's My King

Rev. Dr. Shadrach Meshach Lockridge (1913 – 2000).

My King was born King.
The Bible says my King is a seven way
King:
He's the King of the Jews. That's a
racial King.
He's the King of Israel. That's a
national King.
He's the King of righteousness.
He's the King of the ages.
He's the King of Heaven.
He's the King of Glory.
He's the King of Kings and He is
the Lord of Lords.
Now, that's my King.

Well, I wonder, do you know Him? Do
you know Him?
Don't try to mislead me, do you know
my King?

David said, "The heavens declare the
glory of God and the firmament
showeth His handiwork."
My King is the only one whom...
There's no means of measure can
define His limitless love.
No farseeing telescope can bring
into visibility the coastline of His
shoreless supplies.
No barrier can hinder Him from
pouring out His blessings.

Well, Well, He's enduringly strong.
He's entirely sincere.
He's eternally steadfast.
He's immortally graceful.
He's imperially powerful.

He's impartially merciful.
That's my King

He's God's Son.
He's the sinner's Saviour.
He's the centre-piece of civilisation.
He stands alone in Himself.
He's august and He's unique.
He's unparalleled.
He's unprecedented.
He's supreme.
He's pre-eminent.

He's the loftiest idea in literature.
He's the highest personality in
philosophy.
He's the supreme problem in
higher criticism.
He's the fundamental doctrine of
true theology.
He's the core and necessity of
spiritual religion.

That's my King!

He's the miracle of the ages.
He's the superlative of everything
good that you choose to call Him.
Well, He's the only one able to supply
all of our needs simultaneously.

He supplies strength to the weak.
He's available for the tempted and
the tried.
He sympathises and He saves.
He our guard and He guides.

He heals the sick.
He cleanses the lepers.
He forgives sinners.
He discharges debtors.
He delivers the captives.
He defends the feeble.
He blesses the young.
He serves the unfortunate.
He regards the aged.
He rewards the diligent and
He beautifies the meek.

Do you know Him?

Well! My King is the Key of
knowledge.
He's the Wellspring of wisdom.
He's the Doorway of deliverance.
He's the Pathway of peace.
He's the Roadway of righteousness.
He's the Highway of holiness.
He's the Gateway of glory.
He's the Master of the mighty.
He's the Captain of the conquerors.
He's the Head of the heroes.
He's the Leader of the legislators.
He's the Overseer of the
overcomers.
He's the Governor of governors.
He's the Prince of princes.
He's the King of kings and
He's the Lord of lords.

That's my King! Yeah! Yeah!
That's my King. My King.

Yeah, His office is manifold.
His promise is sure.
His life is matchless.
His goodness is limitless.
His mercy is everlasting.
His love never changes.
His word is enough.
His grace is sufficient.
His reign is righteous.
And His yoke is easy and His
burden is light.

Well... I wish I could describe Him
to you!
But He, He's indescribable. He's

indescribable, Yes!
He, He's incomprehensible.
He's invincible.
He's irresistible!

I've come to tell you, the heaven of
heavens cannot contain Him let
alone a man explain Him.

You can't get Him out of your mind.
You can't get Him off of your hand.
You can't out live Him and
You can't live without Him.

Well, the Pharisees couldn't stand
Him, but they found out they
couldn't stop Him.
Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him.
The witnesses couldn't get their
testimonies to agree.
Herod couldn't kill Him.
Death couldn't handle Him and the
grave couldn't hold Him.

That's my King, yeah!

He always has been, and he
always will be.
I'm talking about... He has no
predecessor, and He'll have no
successor.
There was nobody before Him and
there'll be nobody after Him.
You can't impeach Him, and He's
not going to resign.

That's my King!
Great is the Lord! That's my king!

Thine, thine is the Kingdom and
the power and the glory. Yeah!
Thine is the Kingdom and the
power and the glory.
For ever and ever and ever and
ever.
How long is that?
And ever and ever, and ever and
ever.
And when you get through with all
of the forevers, then Amen!