



God With Us

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:23 NASB)

The verse above from the Gospel according to Matthew is a quote from prophecy out of Isaiah 7:14 and is a foundational proof that Jesus is the Messiah and that Jesus is God.

Taking the verse above, what does it mean to have God *with* us? In a general sense, we know God *“made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist”* (Acts 17:26-28a). God is *with* all men, for without Him, we would not live. Is that the extent of it? Certainly not.

This verse speaks about more than that. It speaks to the promise God made to Israel of a Messiah—the physical manifestation of God in human flesh. As the Messiah, God would be “with” men, among them, entering human history. This is exactly what happened when Jesus was born into time and space as a man and as God through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. Does it end there? Does Immanuel mean “God WAS with us?” Was God’s presence in Jesus only for those living at this time? No.

To understand the full weight of what Jesus’ name in prophecy means, we must understand better what it means to be a Believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus did not come simply to be WITH Israel, nor simply to be WITH those living at this time. He came so that through

His death, atonement, and resurrection, He could be with men and women of all races, ages, times, and places who believe on Him and follow Him. He came to be GOD WITH US—God with you and God with me!

The ending chapters in the Gospel of John record this beautiful truth. Here, Jesus repeatedly tells His disciples in different ways that He is always with Believers even though He was leaving the world. He said, *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”* Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, *“Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?”* Jesus answered and said to him, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him”* (John 14:16-23). God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit will come to anyone and make Their abode with him or her if they only *“repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself”* (Acts 2:38b-39). Even so, Amen.