

GOD (IS) WITH US
Mt 1:23; Is 7:14
Jelšava, 25 December 2016

<p>ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσιν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνεύμενον μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ θεός.</p>	<p>Mt 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)</p>
<p>לְכֵן יִתֵּן אֲדֹנָי הוּא לָכֵם אוֹת הַנִּיחָה הַעֲלִמָה הַרְהוּ וְיִלְדֶת בֵּן וְקָרְאתָ שְׁמוֹ עִמָּנוּ אֵל</p>	<p>Isa 7:14 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.</p>

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0. INTRODUCTION

- Christmas as culture (the need for holidays → the Feasts of the Lord in OT); Christmas → The Incarnation → and our access to it
- The Cross and the Resurrection → the Holy Spirit (**2Cor 4:6** ...the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.)
- The place of history in our faith → **1Cor 15:17** if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins
- Enjoying the details when you are saved. → Giving names to the Son of God („prezývka“)

0.1 GIVING NAMES IN HEBREW

- names: (1) after someone in the family (**Luke 1:63** "His name is John." → John the Baptist); (2) circumstances [**Gn 35:18** ...she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin], character [Nabal]; (3) faith: Abram → Abraham, Jacob → Israel...
 - לַחַיִּים לַחַיִּים LXX mostly Ἰωανναν, Ἰωανν (YHWH *hath been gracious*)
- **Isaiah 7:3** ...you and **Shear-jashub** your son (שְׁאָר יֵשׁוּב בְּנֵךְ)... → **Isaiah 10:21-22** A remnant will return (שְׁאָר יֵשׁוּב), the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. ²² For though your people Israel be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will return (שְׁאָר יֵשׁוּב). Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness.

- יִשְׂרָאֵל Israel (*Ēl persisteth, persevereth* (or juss. *Let Ēl persist*) → **Genesis 32:28** "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." (32:29 כִּי־שָׁרִיתָ עִם־אֱלֹהִים)

0.2 MARY NAMING HER SON

- Isa 7:14: "and (she) shall call his name" / "and thou shalt call his name" ↔ Mt 1:23: "they shall call his name"
- Joseph gave him name "Jesus" [Mt 1:21]

Isaiah 7:14 is now cited as the text fulfilled by Mary's virginal conception of Jesus. Matthew follows the LXX, which is a literal translation of the Hebrew, with one exception. The LXX has *καὶ καλέσεις* (*kai kaleseis*, and you will call), but Matthew has *καὶ καλέσουσιν* (*kai kalesousin*, and they will call); the Hebrew Bible has *וְקָרָאָהּ* (*wēqārā'hā*, and she will call). Variant LXX readings and possible re-pointing of the MT further complicate the matter. The third-person plural in Matthew may simply be an impersonal plural (cf. 5:15; 7:16; 9:17), but it is more likely that, for Matthew, it implies that the people whom Jesus saves from their sins will call him Immanuel. (On the textual form of the quotation, see Menken 2001a.)

- Faith (more important than her virginity); Submission (trust in hard circumstances); Hope (the future of Israel)

0.3 IMMANUEL

- Sentences without verb in Hebrew: add the verb "be" in present. → "God **is** with us"
- **God** is with us *or/and* God **is** with us *or/and* God is with **us**.

1. GOD WITH US – IN PERSON

- "...seemed incredible that the most stupendous event in the world's history should have taken place without convulsions and catastrophes."¹

1.1 HEAVEN ↔ EARTH DIFFERENCE

- **Ps 103:11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth (כְּגֹבַהַ שָׁמַיִם עַל־הָאָרֶץ), so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- **Dt 26:15** Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven (מִן־הַשָּׁמַיִם), and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us
- **Is 57:15** For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.
- God stooping *down*
 - to *creation*
 - to *rebels*

1.2 THE INCARNATION

- Physically present
- **1Cor 12:3** ...no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit (*καὶ οὐδεὶς δύναται εἰπεῖν· Κύριος Ἰησοῦς, εἰ μὴ ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ*)
- impossible? → **1John 4:2-3** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (*ἐν σαρκὶ ἐληλυθότα*) is from God,³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.
- **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (*ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν*), and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth

¹ FARRAR, F. W. *The Life of Christ*, New York : E. P. Dutton & Co., 1875, p. 13.

2. "WITH US" – WITH WHOM?

2.1 WITH ALL HUMANITY

- **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life
"Joy to the world"
- on Earth
- in our circumstances
- in our suffering → **Isaiah 63:9** In all their affliction he was afflicted, (בְּכָל-צָרָתָם לֹא צָרָה)

2.2 WITH THE ELECT OF GOD

- **Jdg 6:13** ...and Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us (וַיֵּשׁ יְהוָה עִמָּנוּ), why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us..."

...the problem of faith is not to receive Jesus into our life but to be received into his ... Men do tend to say "yes" and "no" to Jesus at the same time, and the Christian preacher must avoid the desire to build his message of Jesus exclusively on the "yes." ...[Muslim:] the sin which underlies this claim, the sin of "Shirk" (an obscuring of belief in the oneness of God), is the one sin which, according to the Quran, God will not forgive.²

- **Lk 2:34** "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed
- **John 15:13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life **for his friends**.
- taking sides → setting free; leading to victory;
- giving resources, strength

3. HE REALLY IS WITH US – HOW?

3.1 SALVATION

- Took up our problems
- **Gal 1:3-4** ... the Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself for our sins (τοῦ δόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν) to deliver us from the present evil age (ὅπως ἐξέληται ἡμᾶς ἐκ τοῦ αἰῶνος τοῦ ἐνεστῶτος πονηροῦ), according to the will of our God and Father

3.2 THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Spiritually present
- Paracletos, Advocate, Comforter...
- Jesus is with us daily: **Mt 28:20** ...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (ἐγὼ μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰμι πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος).
- **John 14:18** I will not leave you as **orphans**; I will come to you (Οὐκ ἀφήσω ὑμᾶς ὀρφανούς, ἔρχομαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς).

4. TO REMEMBER

- The name I am giving to Jesus is an expression of my faith and my experience with him.
- The name Immanuel is fully understood only when I belong to his people.
- Knowing Immanuel *now* means walking in the Holy Spirit.

² NILES, D. T. *The Preacher's Task and the Stone of Stumbling*, New York : Harper & Row, 1958, p. 20; 40, 41.