

## **“God With Us...How Could That Be?”**

In Scripture we see (1) God BEFORE man (i.e. God the Father in Creation, Genesis 1:1), (2) God WITH man (i.e. God the Son in the Incarnation, John 1:1-14), (3) God IN man (i.e. God the Spirit in the Regeneration, I Corinthians 6:19). Consider further this second dimension, God WITH us. Matthew 1:21 says, “She (Mary) will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Verse 23 quotes Isaiah 9:6, “...they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, God with us.”

These verses suggest at least three aspects of the coming of Jesus.

I. The MEANS by which He was CONCEIVED (v.21a “...she will bear a son...”)

- Virgin birth, “Jesus was miraculously begotten by God and born of Mary, who was a virgin.”
  - A. Jesus was CONCEIVED by the Holy Spirit (vv. 18, 20)
  - B. Jesus was CARRIED by a human mother (v. 21a)
  - C. Jesus was COMPLETELY God and COMPLETELY man (the “God-man”) (cf. Colossians 2:9)

II. The NAME by which He was CALLED (v. 21b “...you shall call His name Jesus.”)

- His name carries theological meaning.
  - A. “Jesus”-Jehovah is salvation. (used 975 times in N.T.)
  - B. “Immanuel”-God with us. (used 3 times in the Bible) (c.f. Isaiah 7:14; 8:8; Mt. 1:23)
  - C. Other names, “Christ” (anointed Messiah), “Lord” (powerful, authoritative master)

III. The PURPOSE for which He was CRUCIFIED (v. 21c “...for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”)-points to three perspectives to God’s salvation:

- A. The ONE BY WHOM salvation has come (“it is He”) (cf. I Timothy 1:15; Acts 4:12)
- B. The ONES FOR WHOM salvation has come (“His People”) (c.f. Luke 1:68; Hebrew 7:25; Romans 1:16)
- C. The ONE MAIN REASON salvation is needed (“from their sins”) (c.f. Luke 1:77; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 3:18)

God has, indeed, come to us through the incarnation, and when we repent of our sins and surrender our lives to Him in faith, He comes to dwell in us (with us) through regeneration. He is not just “around” us to “watch over” us, He is genuinely WITHIN us.