

Carols Part 1

O Come O Come Emmanuel

INTRODUCTION: The Christmas story is bigger than many tend to think. It doesn't just cover the nine months or so surrounding the announcement of Jesus' birth and His actual birth in Bethlehem. The Christmas story actually covers thousands of years, beginning with God's promise of Christmas in Eden. When Adam and Eve left the Garden, they left with only the promise of Christmas. From that time forward, there were always people who believed in and looked forward to Christmas. Those four thousand years are best characterized as a time of waiting, longing, and looking for God to keep His promise.

DISCUSSION:

1. The Old Testament was basically four thousand years of waiting for God to keep his promise. Has there ever been a time when you had to wait on God longer than you wanted or thought you should? Share.
2. Human relationships often bring drama. How do you think Mary and Joseph must have felt when first hearing news about the virgin birth.
3. When sin entered the world in Eden, it changed everything. Everything we hate about the world is all because of sin. Why is it important for us to remember that the problem with the world isn't people but rather sin operating in people?
4. God was so specific down through the ages about the Messiah's arrival.

God said the Messiah would be descended from Abraham, through Isaac and not Ishmael, through Jacob and not Esau. God indicated that Messiah would come from Judah's tribe, and within Judah's tribe He would come from the line of Jesse. Within Jesse's line, the Messiah was predicted to come from the House of David. The Messiah was expected to be born of a virgin in Bethlehem.

Why was God so clear? Do you think we leverage this compelling part of the Messiah's story when we attempt to convince and lead people to faith? Why or why not?

5. "God had to be with us to reveal himself to us." Jesus revealed some things about God that otherwise we could never have known. What things can we learn about God from Jesus in the gospels?
6. Why is it a gift for every believer to know that God is with us no matter what is behind us, around us, or before us?
7. As believers in the 21st century, do you think that we really long for or look for the second coming of Jesus? Why or why not?

APPLICATION:

Begin to pray everyday Even so come Lord Jesus. Train yourself to wait, look, and long for the second advent. When you see a news story, see something, experience something that is hurtful, disgusting, etc...use that as a cue to pray O come O come Immanuel.

MEMORIZE:

Matthew 1:22All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
23“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

1. [Group]

*Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

2.

*Oh, come O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save;
Bring them in vict'ry through the
grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

3.

*Oh, come, our Dayspring from on
high, And cheer us by your drawing
nigh, Disperse the gloomy clouds of
night, And death's dark shadows put
to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

4.

*Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

5.

Looking, Longing, and Waiting

6.

There was always a group of
people who believed in and
looked forward to Christmas.

7.

This is the genealogy of Jesus
the Messiah the son of **David**,
the son of **Abraham**:

Matthew 1:1 NIV

8.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from **Abraham** to **David**, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the **Messiah**.

Matthew 1:17 NIV

9.

The story of Christmas is the story of a promise made, a promise waited for, a promise longed for, and ultimately a promise kept.

10.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18 NIV

11.

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matthew 1:19 NIV

12.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David,

Matthew 1:20 NIV

13.

do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:20 NIV

14.

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21 NIV

15.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

16.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

17.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

18.

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

19.

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 1:24 NIV

20.

But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:25 NIV

21.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

22.

God’s greatest gift to us, and God’s greatest promise for us, is God with us.

23.

Immanuel teaches us that God doesn’t disengage His love from those who disobey His law.

24.

Immanuel teaches us that God doesn't care as much about what you did as who you are.

25.

Immanuel teaches us that God did not come to condemn people of their sin but rather save them from their sin.

26.

God With Us

27.

Christmas reminds us, He came to us, He is with us, and one day He is coming back for us.

28.

Christmas reminds us that no matter what is behind us, around us, or before us, Our Heavenly Father will be with us.

29.