

Revitalize: The name of Jesus, Immanuel

There are many beautiful names of Jesus: Christ, Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man, Redeemer, Good Shepherd, Savior, Bread of Life, Living Water, and Immanuel. “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him, Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14. Matthew 1:23 repeats most of this scripture, but ends with “...which means God with us”.

“God with us” is exactly the translation of the name, Immanuel. I’m going to throw some big scholarly words at you. Immanuel is an incarnational name. That means it has to do with his incarnate—or human body. John 1:14 says, “The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.” Immanuel is also a dispensational name. Dispensation means ‘distributed or shared out, or divinely appointed. It means that we can be in Christ and Christ in us as well. He is shared with us.

One of the amazing things I have learned as I have studied the name Immanuel is that before Christ, it was only in special situations that God was with you. You will notice it in many places before battles or big events in the Old Testament. In Genesis 39:2 it says, “The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered...” This was while Joseph was working for Potiphar. Then Mrs. Potiphar did her best desperate housewife seduction move and betrayal. In verse 20 and 21 of the same chapter it says, ‘But while Joseph was there in prison the Lord was with him....’. Other examples of God making special time to be with people included Moses; Joshua; Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego in the fiery furnace; Samuel being called as a priest, and so many more.

But the exciting thing is that Jesus is, was and always will be Immanuel, God with us. The name Immanuel as Dr. Tony Evans says, “embodies all the names of God”. If that doesn’t thrill you because you haven’t really paid much attention to the names of God, that’s okay. Immanuel, God with us, is exciting because, God Is With Us ALL the Time! If you can grasp onto the idea of God in all His names and attributes standing with you all the time, you can feel His comfort, His strength, His rest, His peace, His provision and His power all the time!

In the Old Testament the heroes didn’t win battles unless God was with them. When Samson got his hair cut, God withdrew from him and he lost his strength. We cannot fight our spiritual battles if we don’t have Immanuel. Because of Jesus, we have Immanuel permanently with us. He doesn’t leave us just because of a bad stylist anymore. And we all have God with us, if we have accepted Christ as our Savior and Lord. It’s no longer just the special heroes that have God with them; even the secretary behind the computer has Immanuel!

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