

Immanuel – “God With Us”

On a cold Christmas Eve in 1952, when Korea was in the throes of civil war, one young woman struggled along a village street, obviously soon to deliver a child. She pleaded with passersby,

"Help me! Please. My baby."

No one paid any attention to her.

A middle-aged couple walked by. The wife pushed away the young mother and sneered, "Where's the father? Where's your American man now?" The couple laughed and went on.

The young woman almost doubled up from a contraction as she watched them go.

"Please . . ." she begged.

She had heard of a missionary living nearby who might help her. Hurriedly, she began walking to that village. If only he would help her baby. Shivering and in pain, she struggled over the frozen countryside. But the night was bitter-cold. Snow began to fall. Realizing that the time was near to deliver her baby, she took shelter under a bridge. There, alone, her baby was born on Christmas Eve.

Worried about her newborn son, she took off her own clothes, wrapped them around the baby and held him close in the warm circle of her arms.

The next day, the missionary braved the new snow to deliver Christmas packages. As he walked along, he heard the cry of a baby. He followed the sound to a bridge. Under it, he found a young mother frozen to death, still clutching her crying new born son. The missionary tenderly lifted the baby out of her arms.

When the baby was 10 years old, his now adoptive father told him the story of his mother's death on Christmas Eve.

The young boy cried, realizing the sacrifice his mother had made for him.

The next morning, the missionary rose early to find the boy's bed empty. Seeing a fresh set of small footprints in the snow outside, he bundled up warmly in a winter coat and followed the trail. It led back to the bridge where the young mother had died.

As the missionary approached the bridge, he stopped, stunned. Kneeling in the snow was his son, naked and shivering uncontrollably. His clothes lay beside him in a small pile. Moving closer, he heard the boy say through chattering teeth:

"Mother, were you this cold for me?"

What love that mother had for her son and what a sacrifice she made. She gave her very life to save her son on that cold winter's night. This reminds me of the great love of Christ to humble Himself to become a human to live as our example and to become our Savior, sacrificing His life to save ours.

It was no small sacrifice that Jesus made just to *come* to the Earth as a human! It was said of Jesus, "His strength setteth fast the mountains." "The sea is His, and He made it." [Psalm 65:6; 95:5](#). The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Ps. 93:1. It was Christ that spread the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth. It was Christ that hung the worlds in space, and fashioned the flowers of the field. It was Christ that filled the earth with beauty, and the air with song. {DA 20.1}

In Colossians 1:15-16, speaking of Christ, the Bible says, "¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."

It was Christ who, through thunderings on Mount Sinai, spoke the 10 Commandments of Love to the Jewish nation. It was Christ who commanded Moses for Israel, "Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (**Exodus 25:8**), and He abode in the sanctuary, in the midst of His people. Through all their weary wandering in the desert, the symbol of His presence was with them. So Christ set up His tabernacle in the midst of our human encampment. He pitched His tent by the side of the tents of men, that He might dwell among us, and make us familiar with His divine character and life. "The Word became flesh, and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the Only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth." **John 1:14**

I can only begin to understand what an amazing sacrifice it was for Christ to leave His throne at the right hand of His Father to come to this sin-filled planet as a tiny human baby and to forever retain His human nature. And what an amazing sacrifice for the Sovereign God of the universe to give His "beloved", only-begotten Son, torn from His bosom, to become one with the human family.

((To assure us of His immutable counsel of peace, God gave His only-begotten Son TO BECOME ONE OF THE HUMAN FAMILY, FOREVER TO RETAIN HIS HUMAN NATURE." (Desire of Ages, p.25)))

To say that Jesus had a humble birth is a great understatement. He deserved far better than the wealthiest of humans could provide. But instead of being born in a palace, He was literally born in a barn with farm animals. Only a few had a clue as to who this newborn baby was. The shepherds tending their sheep by night were alerted by rejoicing Angels and the Wise Men of the East followed His star to worship Him. But the vast majority had no idea as to the Savior's birth.

It was His Father's design that Christ should have a humble birth and live a humble life because "In all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren." **Hebrews 2:17**. If we had to go through anything that Jesus did not endure, then Satan would cry "UN FAIR!" insisting that the power of God was insufficient for us. In Hebrews 4:15, the Bible says that Jesus was "in all points tempted like as we are." In other words, He endured every trial that

we suffer. He exercised in His own behalf no power that is not freely offered to you and to me. As a man, He met temptation, and overcame in the strength of His Father.

“I do nothing of Myself,” said Christ; “the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father.” “I seek not Mine own glory,” but the glory of Him that sent Me. [John 8:28](#); [6:57](#); [8:50](#); [7:18](#). In these words is set forth the great principle which is the law of life for the universe. All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. And so it can be with us. As we choose to humble ourselves, recognizing our own powerlessness, believing and trusting in God’s almighty, loving power, and submit to His leading, we also receive victory.

As the Son of man, Christ gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey. It was Christ who from the bush on Mount Horeb spoke to Moses saying, “I AM THAT I AM.... Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” **Exodus 3:14**. This was the pledge of Israel’s deliverance. So when He came “in the likeness of men,” He declared Himself the I AM. The Child of Bethlehem, the meek and lowly Saviour, is God “manifest in the flesh.” **1 Timothy 3:16**. And Jesus says to us: “I AM the Good Shepherd.” “I AM the living Bread.” “I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” “All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.” **John 10:11**; **6:51**; **14:6**; **Matthew 28:18**. I AM the assurance of every promise. I AM; be not afraid. Immanuel, “God with us” is the surety of our deliverance from sin, the assurance of our power to obey the law of heaven. {DA 24.3} So, if God be for us, then who can stand against us?! (**Rom 8:31**) I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me! (**Philippians 4:13**).

It was Satan that said, “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ... I will be like the Most High.” [Isaiah 14:13, 14](#). But Christ, in stooping to take upon Himself humanity, revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan. But He stepped still lower in the path of humiliation. “Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” [Philippians 2:8](#). “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.” [Isaiah 53:5](#).

It was bad enough that Christ had to die to pay the price for my sins, but it was even worse that He had to suffer so.

Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. “With His stripes we are healed.” [Isaiah 53:5](#) {DA 25.2}

All have sinned (Rom.3:23). The wages of sin is death; [That’s what I deserve] but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom 6:23).

The young Korean mother, In dying, saved her infant son from certain death on that frigid Christmas eve. When Jesus died, He died to pay the penalty for my sins and for yours. Now I

can live; you can live! When Jesus died on that old rugged cross, it was like He was holding you in His loving arms, protecting you from the cold penalty of your sins.

Of His people God says, “They shall be as the jewels of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon His land. For how great is His goodness, and how great is His beauty!” [Zechariah 9:16, 17](#). The exaltation of the redeemed will be an eternal testimony to God’s mercy. “In the ages to come,” He will “show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus {DA 26.1} Throughout eternity, we will be praising our Father and His “beloved Son” as we witness to millions of beings in the un-fallen worlds of how God brought us out of our sinful lives; how He adopted us as His sons and daughters; and how He covered us with the robe of Christ’s righteousness and changed our lives as we cooperated with Him.

Yes friends, we are more precious to Jesus than we will ever understand. Think of it. The Creator came to this sinful world as an infant, born in a barn, raised in a town known for its wickedness, treated poorly by many, framed as a criminal by the leaders of His specially-chosen nation, beaten nearly to death by Roman soldiers, and finally nailed naked to that old rugged cross where He died, not of the injuries suffered, but of a broken heart.

Why did He do it? There’s just one reason. He loves His precious children of this world more than His own life. Jesus knew that the only way that you could survive the bitter-cold of your sins was if He would remove His warm robe of righteousness and wrap it around you and hold you close in the warm circle of His arms until He died of a broken heart – the victim of your bitter-cold sins. That’s how precious you are to Jesus.....

Do you love my Jesus?..... Won’t you invite Him into your heart..... again..... today? He wants to work in you in amazing ways, but never without your invitation. He has all eternity invested in you. He wants the very best for you. He will only lead you in paths that you yourself would choose if you could see where those paths lead, as He can. You can trust my Jesus and you can trust our loving Father who sent His beloved, only-begotten Son to this planet to save you and I from the forces of evil.