



12/24/2023

## *The Difficulties of Christmas*

### **Every Area Of Mary's Life Was Affected By God**

**Matthew 1:23** - *"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"*

**Matthew 28:20** - *"...And be sure of this: **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"*

- 1) Jesus Is His Human Name.
- 2) Christ Is His Title.
- 3) Immanuel Describes Who He Is.

### **God Is With Us!**

### **Living For God And Bringing Christ Into Our World Can Be Difficult**

**Matthew 1:18-24** - *This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. <sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.*

#### **1. A Virgin Became Pregnant.**

**Luke 1:28** - *Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.*

**2. Someone's Unmarried Daughter Gets Pregnant.**

**3. A Man Discovers His Fiancé Is Pregnant.**

**4. They Had To Register For A Census.**

**Micah 5:2** - *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.*

**5. Traveling 80 Miles While Pregnant Through Tough Territory.**

**6. No Room To Stay, Let Alone Give Birth.**

**Luke 2:7** - *She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

**7. They Have To Flee The Country Because The King Puts A Hit On Jesus And Orders A Massacre.**

**Matthew 2:13-16** - *After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." <sup>14</sup> That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, <sup>15</sup> and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt." <sup>16</sup> Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance.*

**8. God Humbles Himself To Become One Of Us.**

**Philippians 2:6-11** - *Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**The Creator Who Spoke The Universe Into Existence Sent His Best To Save Us From Sin And Death**

**God Became A Man And Entered Our Dark, Cold World To Redeem A Sinful People**

**He Is Emmanuel...God With Us.**