

# CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL

Scripture Reading: MATTHEW 1:18-25

- ) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDE 7-9**. Read today's Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 11**. Sing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- ) It is the year 722 BC. You are a faithful Jew from the tribe of Zebulun. You and your family live and prosper in the part of the Promised Land your forefathers inherited as the promise of God to Abraham.
- ) Something terrible happens that year. You and the other people in the land of Zebulun along with the people in the land of 9 other tribes are taken captive by that wicked Gentile nation Assyria. You are then exiled out of your land to the land inhabited by people who worship false gods and false idols. What was once your land, your possessions, and your way of life no longer exists. You are now in captivity.
- ) It is the year 587 BC. You are a faithful Jew from the tribe of Judah. You and your family live and prosper in the part of the Promised Land your forefathers inherited as the promise of God to Abraham. It is only the tribe of Judah and the tribe of Benjamin that now remain as Israel. The other 10 tribes were exiled to Assyria about 135 years before.
- ) Something terrible happens that year. You and the other people in the land of Judah along with the people in the land of Benjamin are taken captive by that wicked Gentile nation Babylon. You are then exiled out of your land to the land inhabited by people who worship false gods and false idols. What was once your land, your possessions, and your way of life no longer exists. You are now in captivity.

- ) It is now many centuries later. If you are a faithful Jewish man or Jewish woman, you are crying for help. You are crying for deliverance. You are feeling the wrath of God for the sins of your forefathers. You are mourning in your lowly existence in exile in a foreign land. You are crying for your Messiah.
- ) **SLIDE 11.** Sing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- ) I can just picture myself sitting on the ridge of a field, looking up at the night sky, with my heart aching desperately for my land, my customs, my feasts, my temple, my God.
- ) As a faithful Jew I would have remembered what my mother taught me about the words of the prophet Isaiah who said that a child would be born from a virgin. And this child will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. And the virgin will call Him Emmanuel, which means God with us.
- ) I would wonder when this child would be born and how it would be that he would be a ransom for my people. What would he do or what would he pay to free me, to free us?
- ) A part of me would be in desperation. I would cry out, "*Free me from this captivity. Do not allow me to suffer at the hands of a Gentile king. Free me from this captivity. Do not allow me to suffer from the iniquities of those before me.*"
- ) Another part of me would say, "*Rejoice O Israel. For it will be to you that redemption will come. Rejoice O Israel. For it will be to you from the root of Jesse that deliverance from your captors will come.*"
- ) **SLIDE 11.** Sing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- ) It is now a few centuries later. You are standing in the temple court on an ordinary day. There is a conversation going on between an old man who everyone calls Simeon and 2 young parents who just brought their newborn child to the temple so that they may consecrate him to the Lord.

- ) The mother, with a smile on her face, hands the child to the old man. Tears come into his eyes and then you hear him say:
- ) *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*
- ) The old man hands the child back to the mother and says to her, *“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”*
- ) You stand in wonder; in amazement. Could this child be the promised Messiah? Will he be the one to free us?
- ) **SLIDE 11.** Sing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- ) That song, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, was originally written in Latin in the 12th Century. The author of the words and composer to the music is unknown. A man by the name of John Mason Neale translated the Latin into English in 1851.
- ) It is now December 25<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. O come, O come, Emmanuel. There’s good news my friends! Emmanuel has arrived. He was born as a child about 2,000 years ago. His name is Jesus called the Christ, the Messiah, the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
- ) And ransom captive Israel. The child has come to set the captives free. But free from what?
- ) Free from my financial woes? Free from my past relationship issues? Free from this pain, this cancer, this sickness? Free from this hurt because I have lost someone I love? Free from my dysfunctional family that I cannot control? Free from the threat of foreign people and religions taking over my country? Free from narcissistic politicians that want to ruin my country and my comfortable way of life?

- ) As great and as real as these issues may be, Emmanuel has come to set us free from the absolute worst problem a human being will ever have. Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, has come to set the captives free from their bondage of sin.
- ) Every one of us is in bondage to our master and that master is sin. Sin has placed us in exile from the Father. We mourn in lowly exile because our sin has severed our relationship with the Father. But that relationship can now be made right because the Son of God, Emmanuel, has appeared and is with us.
- ) I can stand here and rejoice. Rejoice believer! I rejoice because I was once a captive in exile but now the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross and His resurrection from the grave has paid my ransom. Paid in full.
- ) Rejoice unbeliever. Because the same child who lived to die as a ransom for my sin wants to be a ransom for your sin too. The question is, is He? Has He ransomed your sins too? Have you received Jesus Christ and felt His forgiveness and trusted Him with your eternity?
- ) Salvation is not a litany of rituals and obligations, church attendance or giving money to churches and other charitable organizations. It's a heart condition. So, I ask. Where is your heart today? Are you trying to earn your way to heaven by your good works, merit, and efforts? Or are you rejoicing because Emmanuel is now with us and has done it all for you?
- ) **SLIDE 11.** Sing the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.
- ) Emmanuel has come. Emmanuel is with us. Have you let Him in? Are you rejoicing? Have you been set free from captivity?
- ) **SLIDE 12.** MATTHEW 1:21.

12/25/2022 at Beech Grove Christian Church