

Matthew 1:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Analysis

Matthew's quotation of Isaiah 7:14 emphasizes the virgin birth ('virgin' translates Hebrew 'almah' via the Septuagint's 'parthenos'). The name 'Emmanuel' (God with us) reveals Jesus' identity as divine—not merely a prophet or king, but God incarnate dwelling among His people. This is the theological foundation of the incarnation.

Historical Context

Isaiah's prophecy was given to King Ahaz around 735 BC during the Syro-Ephraimite crisis. While it had an immediate fulfillment, Matthew shows its ultimate fulfillment in Christ. The Septuagint's translation choice of 'parthenos' (virgin) was providential.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What difference does it make in your daily life that God is 'with us' in Christ?

2. How does the doctrine of the incarnation shape your understanding of God's love?

Interlinear Text

Ἴδοὺ	ἡ	παρθένος	ἐν	γαστρὶ	ἔξει	καὶ
Behold	G3588	a virgin	shall be with child	G1064	G2192	and
G2400		G3933	G1722			G2532
τέξεται	υἱόν,	καὶ	καλέσουσιν	τὸ	ὄνομα	αὐτοῦ
shall bring forth	a son	and	they shall call	G3588	name	his
G5088	G5207	G2532	G2564		G3686	G846
Ἐμμανουήλ,	ὃ	ἐστιν	μεθερμηνευόμενον,	Μεθ'	ἡμῶν	
Emmanuel	which	is	being interpreted	with	us	
G1694	G3739	G2076	G3177	G3326	G2257	
ὁ	Θεός					
G3588	God					
	G2316					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Psalms 46:11 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Isaiah 12:2 (References God): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Psalms 46:7 (References God): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

1 Timothy 3:16 (References God): And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

2 Timothy 4:22 (Parallel theme): The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.

Romans 9:5 (References God): Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Acts 18:9 (Parallel theme): Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: