

**AGAPE HOUSE OF WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Topic: Significance of The Birth of Christ**

**Date:** Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023

**Text:** Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-5

**Facilitator:** Pastor Yewande Efodili

**Learning Objectives**

What is Christmas? Why do we need to celebrate Christmas every year? Is Christmas just another religious Festival?

What should be our stand and perspectives as Christ's follower and body of Christ?

In this study we will be taking a closer look at Jesus's birth to try to catch its significance in order to increase of love for Jesus, uplift and increase our worship of Him.

**Introduction:** About 700 years BC, Isaiah recorded a prophecy about the birth of Christ in Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore, The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and will bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel." This was fulfilled in Matt.1: 18-23.

<sup>18</sup> *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.* <sup>19</sup> *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.* <sup>20</sup> *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,**<sup>[e]</sup> **because he will save his people from their sins.**"* <sup>22</sup> *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, **and they will call him Immanuel**" (which means "God with us").*

**The Significance**

- **Jesus's conception:** Matt.1:16-23

Though Jesus was born as a child with flesh and blood, His source was the Holy Spirit. Although Christ was born of Mary (v. 16), **He was a child of the Holy Spirit.** The birth of Christ was directly of the Holy Spirit (v. 20). His **source** was the **Holy Spirit** and His element was divine. Through the virgin Mary He put on flesh and blood, the human nature, taking the likeness of the flesh (Rom. 8:3 *"The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature, So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. **And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins**"*),

The likeness of men (Phil. 2:7 says Jesus gave up His divine privileges, taking the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being).

These two verses, Matthew 1:18 and 20, show us that **the birth of Jesus Christ was by no means the ordinary birth** of an ordinary man; **it was the extraordinary incarnation of God Himself. The birth of Jesus was the birth of a God-man**, a wonderful Person who was both divine and human.

- **Why did God send Jesus?**

Rom.5:6-8 *"6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* God's love was directed towards us while we were wallowing in sin.

Deut.7:6-8 *"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because **the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.**"*

It was because **God number one priority is to display His glory, he created us in his image to reflect that glory** Gen.1:26-31, but because of our sins we fell short of reflecting that glory Rom.3:23. Therefore God sent Jesus Colo.1:15

- **There are 2 unique names of Jesus** given by the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 1:21-23 tell us the 2 unique names: **Jesus and Emmanuel**: “And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name **Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.**”

Now all this has happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ‘*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name **Emmanuel***’ (which is translated, **God with us**).”

The two excellent names of **Jesus** and **Emmanuel** are full of significance for us.

**What is the meaning of Jesus?** the name “Jesus” or “Jeshua” or “Joshua” derives from Hebrew roots meaning “**the Lord is salvation.**”

The name **Emmanuel** communicates that the Lord, and he alone, **saves his people from evil** by his sovereign grace. Phil.2:9-11, Prov.18:10.

*Jesus* is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name *Joshua* (Num. 13:16), which means *Jehovah the Savior*, or the *salvation of Jehovah*. **Hence, Jesus is not only a man but Jehovah, and not only Jehovah but Jehovah becoming our**

**salvation.** Thus, He is our Savior. He is also our Joshua, the One who brings us into rest (Heb. 4:8; Matt. 11:28-29).

Without Jesus there is no rest; labor came as a result of the fall of man but rest came through Jesus.

Because of the **fall of man**, all human beings need a Savior. This Savior is Jesus, who is Jehovah, the very God Himself.

The God-man Jesus is the only one who saves us from our sins. Not only so, but even after we first believe in Him we can continue to enjoy being saved from the negative things in our lives, such as our temper, anxiety, or discouragement.

Whenever we **call upon the name of Jesus**, we’re saved.

The name **Emmanuel** is also very powerful: He is *God with us* all the time. How comforting and encouraging this is! He’s always with us, everywhere and in every situation. No matter what we go through – serious sickness, financial difficulties, loneliness, broken dreams, delay? “*A very present help in trouble*” Ps.46:1.

Isaiah 41:10, Deut. 31:8, Joshua 1:9, John 14:16-17. God exists with us in a whole new way after His death and resurrection.

I am so grateful for a God who understands how important it is for him to always be there for us whenever we need him.

- **We have access to the father**

Eph.3:12 “*In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence*”;

Romans 5:1-2 ‘*Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, **we have Peace with God** because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. <sup>2</sup> Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of **undeserved privilege** where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.*’

Heb.10:19-23 *And so, dear brothers and sisters, **we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place** because of the blood of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> By his death, **Jesus opened a new and life-giving way** through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. <sup>21</sup> And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God’s house, <sup>22</sup> **let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.** For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ’s blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.*