

God With Us

Matthew 1:20-25

20But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23Behold, 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.

24Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

That is what happened for our redemption. The Holy Ghost came upon Mary and she bore a Son and called Him, Jesus. The great Creator came down and became a sacrifice for our sin. His blood was the blood of God. That is exactly what it was. That blood of God was shed and the Spirit left Him as He died in agony. Then the SAME LIFE (SPIRIT) came back to indwell the repentant sinner and

set him free. That sinner did not come back year after year, sacrifice after sacrifice, for there was no need. By ONE sacrifice, once and for all he has been set free from the dominion of sin, and has received the life of Christ whereby he reigns in victory over sin, the world, the flesh and the devil.

God did it. He did it all. He cried out to the world cursed in sin, “I will give you a sign. A virgin shall be with child. A virgin shall conceive and bear a Son. That will be your sign. It will be an everlasting sign. What she brings forth will be Emmanuel, God with us.”

God came down in a blood cell, not through a man, but by the Holy Ghost, and in that virgin womb a tabernacle for the purpose of death was built. The Seed of the woman came in order that He be bruised to bring us our salvation. When the Holy Ghost came upon Mary, He created within her womb the cell that would multiply and become the body of our Lord. That cell was created. It was the Beginning of the Creation of God. That is Who Jesus is. And that Holy One was filled with Holy blood, even the blood of God. That tabernacle came to birth. He grew to be a man. He went to Jordan and there that Sacrifice was washed of John in the river called Jordan. When that Acceptable Sacrifice rose out of the water, God came and indwelt Him, filling Him with the Spirit without measure. And when He died and shed His blood, the perfect life of

God was liberated to come back upon the sinner who would accept the Christ as his Saviour.

An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - 4 - The Smyrnaean Church Age

In John 1:1 where it says, “In the beginning was the Word,” the root from which we get our translation for “Word” is “Logos” which means “the thought or concept.” It has the double meaning of “thought” and “speech.” Now a “thought expressed” is a “word,” or “words.” Isn’t that wonderful and beautiful? John says the concept of God was expressed in Jesus. And Paul says the very same thing in Hebrews 1:1-3, “God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, (Logos), Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His Person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.” God became expressed in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Express Image of God. Again in John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt amongst us.” The very substance of God was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. The great Spirit-God unto Which no man could approach, Which no man had seen or could behold was now tabernacled in flesh and dwelt among men, expressing the fullness of God to men. John 1:18, “No man hath seen

God at any time; the only begotten Son, Which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.” God, Who on occasions would manifest His presence by the cloud or pillar of fire that struck fear in the hearts of men; this God, Whose heart characteristics were made known only by revelation of words through the prophets, now became Emmanuel (God with us) declaring Himself. The word, “declare,” is taken from the Greek root which we often interpret as exegesis, which means to thoroughly explain and make clear. That is what the Living WORD, Jesus, did. He brought God to us, for He was God. He revealed God to us with such perfect clarity that John could say about Him in I John 1:1-3, “That Which was from the beginning, Which we have heard,” (Logos means speech), “Which we have seen with our eyes, Which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of Life; (for the Life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that Eternal Life, Which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) that Which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” When God was truly revealed, He was manifested in the flesh. “He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.”

Now back in Hebrews 1:1-3 we made note that Jesus was the express image of God. He was God expressing Himself in man to man. But there is something else to note in these verses, especially verses 1 and 2, “God, Who at

sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son.” I want you to notice here in the margin of your Bible you will see a correction. The word, “by” is not a correct translation. It should be “IN.” Not, “by.” It then reads correctly, “God spake in times past unto the fathers IN the prophets by means of the Word.” I Samuel 3:21b, “For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the Word of the Lord.” That brings out I John 5:7 perfectly, “The Spirit and Word are ONE.” Jesus revealed the Father. The Word revealed the Father. Jesus was the Living Word. Praise God, today He is still that Living Word.

When Jesus was upon earth He said, “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.” John 14:10. Here it is most evidently set forth that the perfect manifestation of God in the Son was by the indwelling Spirit manifesting in Word and works. That is exactly what we have been teaching all along. When the bride will get back to being a Word bride, she will produce the very works that Jesus produced. The Word is God. The Spirit is God. They are all ONE. One cannot work apart from the other. If one truly has the Spirit of God, he will have the Word of God. That is how it was with the prophets. They had the indwelling Spirit of God and the Word came to them. That is how it was with Jesus. In Him was the Spirit

without measure and the Word came to Him. (“Jesus began both to do and TEACH.” “My doctrine is not My own, but the Father’s That sent Me.” Acts 1:1; John 7:16.) Remember now, John the Baptist was both the prophet and the messenger of his day. He was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother’s womb. When he was baptizing in Jordan the Word of God (Jesus) came to him. The Word always comes to the truly Spirit-filled. That is the evidence of being filled with the Holy Ghost. That is what Jesus said would be the evidence. He said, “And I will pray the Father, and He will send you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive.” Now we know what Truth is. “Thy Word is Truth,” John 17:17b. Again in John 8:43, “Why do ye not understand My speech? even because ye cannot hear My Word.” Did you notice that Jesus said that the world could not receive the Holy Ghost? Well, in this verse I just read, neither could they receive the Word. Why? Because the Spirit and the Word are one, and if you have the Holy Spirit as the prophets, the Word would come to you. You would receive it. In John 14:26, “But the Comforter, Which is the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name, He shall TEACH you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Here again we find the Word coming because of the Spirit of God. Again in John 16:13, “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth (Word), is come, He will guide you into all truth.” (“Thy Word is truth.”) “And He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear

(Word of God), that shall He speak (Word): and He will show you things to come.” (Spirit bringing the Word of Prophecy.) I want you to note very carefully that Jesus did not say that the evidence of being baptized with the Holy Ghost was speaking in tongues, interpreting, prophesying, or shouting and dancing. He said the evidence would be that you would be in the TRUTH; you would be in the Word of God for your age. Evidence has to do with receiving that Word.

In I Corinthians 14:37, “If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.” Now see that. The proof of the indwelling Spirit was to acknowledge and FOLLOW what God’s prophet gave for his age as he set the church in order. Paul had to say to those who claimed another revelation, (verse 36) “What? came the Word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?” The evidence of a Spirit-filled Christian believer is not to produce the truth (Word), but to receive the truth (Word), and to believe and obey it.

Have you noticed in Revelation 22:17, “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come”? See, the bride speaks the same Word as does the Spirit. She is a Word bride proving she has the Spirit. In every church age we hear these words, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” The Spirit gives the Word. If you have the Spirit you will hear

the Word for your age, as those true Christians took the Word for their age.

Did you get that last thought? I repeat, every church age ends with the same admonition. “**He that hath an ear, let him** (an individual) **hear what the Spirit saith to the churches.**” The Spirit gives the Word. He has the truth for each age. Each age has had its own elect, and that elect group always “heard the word,” and received it, proving they had the Seed in them. John 8:47, “**And he that is of God heareth God’s Words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.**” They refused the Word (Jesus) and His Words for their days, but the true seed received the Word because they were of God. “**And ALL Thy children shall be taught of God (Holy Spirit),**” Isaiah 54:13. Jesus said the same thing in John 6:45. Being ONE WITH THE WORD proves whether you are of God and Spirit-filled. No other criterion.

But what are tongues and interpretation and the other gifts? They are manifestations. That is what the Word teaches. Read it in I Corinthians 12:7, “**But the MANIFESTATION of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.**” Then Paul names those manifestations.

Now comes this very good question I know that you are all anxious to ask. Why isn’t the manifestation an evidence of being baptized with the Holy Ghost, because you surely could not manifest the Holy Ghost unless you truly were

Spirit-filled? Now I wish I could say that is right, because I don't like to hurt people or walk on their doctrine; but I wouldn't be a true servant of God if I didn't tell you the whole counsel of God. That is right, is it not? Just let us take a little look at Balaam. He was religious, he worshipped God. He understood the proper method of sacrificing and approaching unto God, but he was not a True Seed prophet for he took the wages of unrighteousness, and worst of all he led the people of God into sins of fornication and idolatry. Yet who would dare to deny that the Spirit of God manifested through him in one of the most beautiful portions of absolutely accurate prophecy the world has ever seen? But he never had the Holy Ghost. Now then, what do you think of Caiaphas, the high priest? The Bible says that he prophesied the kind of death the Lord should die. We all know there is no record of him being a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led man like dear old Simeon or that sweet saint called Anna. Yet he had a genuine manifestation of the Holy Ghost. We can't deny that. So where is manifestation as an evidence? It isn't there. If you are truly filled with the Spirit of God you will have the evidence of the WORD in your life.

An Exposition Of The Seven Church Ages - 5 - The Pergamean Church Age

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd And with our heads bowed now towards the dust from whence we were taken, and some day shall return, I wonder...And in this solemn moment, as we're approaching Christmas, if there is some

here that really feel unworthy and would like to be remembered in this prayer, would you (without raising your head) just raise you hands to God and say, “Remember me, Lord, this Christmas”? God bless you.

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd And we set as sour as the bumps on a pickle, and let such things go on. And afraid to raise and testify your conviction, and condemn all this nonsense, make Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever. It's Christmas time, get out these Santa Clauses and stuff, away with that nonsense of commercializing. Wherever you heard about Santa Claus in the Bible? It's a Roman mythology, there's nothing to it at all, there is no such a thing. Don't teach your children such nonsense as that. When one day you'll have to tell him that it was all a blind story, then you've lied to your child. And it'll hurt your testimony about Jesus Christ, he'll say, “Maybe It's the same thing.” Put Jesus Christ the Great Shepherd-prophet back into the Christmas where It belongs.

Malachi 4

4 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

194 Notice, listen to this prophet, John, as he stands there. We all know that he was a great shepherd-prophet. Now, he had a message, the Angel knewed that he was going to introduce Jesus.

195 Now, he couldn't go to some seminary. They'd say, "Now, you know that Doctor So-and-so is just the man to take the place now. You're to introduce him. And you know that just..." See, he couldn't get mixed up with man.

196 At the age of nine years old, we're told, he went into the wilderness to prepare before God. That's where the shepherds come from. Notice his message wasn't like a theologian, with some great, big swelling words of some degree. He said, "Oh, you generation of snakes." Telling religious man, "You bunch of snakes." That's what he had seen in the wilderness, he saw the snake. Lowest thing he could find was a snake, and he called them priests and clergymen and theologians of that day, "A bunch of snakes!" Said, "Who's warned you from the wrath to come? Don't begin to say, 'We belong to this, and we belong to that,' for I say unto you that God's able of these stones to rise children to Abraham." Stones, what he had seen in the wilderness. "Also, the ax is laid to the root of the tree." That's what he had been seeing: snakes, trees, wilderness. And, see, that was his message. He didn't know the great swelling words of some great doctor of divinity (could explain it all away), he just preached exactly the line of nature.

197 That's what we're showing here: the shepherd's staff, the shepherd, the sheep, the line of nature.

198 What did he do? He had a great thing to do, he was the one that would know the Messiah. He said, "I say, 'He's standing here among you now. And you don't know Him, because your theology has got you so tied up, you don't know where you're at.'"

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd

207 Noticing, they still desire it. They won't accept It today, just the same as they didn't then, because it does not fit their ecclesiastical taste. They turn that Word around and make it suit their organization, and they won't preach the Word. They won't! They say, "Well, that was for the days of apostles. It doesn't mean this." It means just exactly what It says, It needs nobody to...?...interpret It for them.

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd
Put Christ Back in the Pulpit.

263 When those seven mysteries...Back through those Seven Church Ages, there were seven hidden mysteries. I'm writing a book of It. And a great theologian said to me not long ago, said, "Brother Branham..." See how Satan will try to jerk you off the road? He said, "Brother Branham, you know what? I believe the Lord will reveal to you what we're to do next. Is to...it'll be some great secret that's hid in under these Seven Seals."

264 I said, "No, that isn't it, brother."

265 He said, "It'll be something that's not even written in the Word."

266 I said, "No! No! You forget, 'Whosoever shall add one word, or take one Word away.'" See, It's already in there, but the reformers has failed to see It, they didn't live long enough to see It.

267 And the ages is over now, we're right here at Laodicea. And remember, the Laodicea age, He was on the outside of the church, knocking, trying to get back in: Eve had put her Adam out. God, help us. Let us go beyond the camp to find Him. Let us suffer without the gates with Him. Let us go to Him in His death, in His burial, and in His resurrection; for He's the same yesterday, today, and forever.

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd

Closing

238 Lord Jesus, they're in Your hands now. I pray that each open heart tonight that hasn't got the Christ, Messiah (and Christ is the Word, the anointed Word made manifest), and if there's any open hearts here tonight that doesn't have that Messiah, the real Christmas Gift, the only real Christmas Gift there is, that God gave the world, and declared It to the world by shepherds, of His Lamb, the Atonement for sin, and if that heart is open tonight, place in it, Lord, the Messiah Word of today. We commit them to You in the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

64-1221 - Why It Had To Be Shepherd

Let Us Pray,