

IMMANUEL - the Gift of Joy

I. The Mystery of His Incarnation

Isa 64.1 NIV Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

A. Incomprehensible! Beyond our Imagination

Who can comprehend this?

Matt 1:18 NKJ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he **thought about these things**, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, **do not be afraid** to take to you Mary your wife, for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit**. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for **He will save His people from their sins.**" **22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**,*" which is translated, "**God with us.**"

B. Solutions Offered to the Unworthy!

The **Pride of Man** can only be **cured** by the **Humility of God**.

Isa 7:10 ESV Again the LORD spoke to **Ahaz**:¹ **11** "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be **deep** as Sheol or **high** as heaven." **12** But Ahaz said, "**I will not** ask, and **I will not** put the LORD to

¹ Worst king ever! Burned a son in sacrifice, placed a Syrian altar in Jerusalem. Not buried with other kings.

the test.” 13 And he said, “**Hear** then, **O house of David!** Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore **the Lord himself will give you a sign.** Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name ***Immanuel.***

The **Effect of God in our Midst** – ***Immanuel*** – In His Presence (His Face – Love of God) is Fullness of **Joy**

II. The Mystery of His Incarnation

Isa 64.4 NIV Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, **who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.**

1 Cor 2.9 NIV However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived **what God has prepared** for those who love him” —

A. Shout for Joy!

Luke 1:26 NKJ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was **sent** by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was **Mary.** 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “**Rejoice, highly favored one,** the Lord *is* with you; **blessed are** you among women!”

Rejoice! — Shout for Joy! Full of Grace, Highly Favored, Freely Beloved (Geneva, Bishops)

B. Finding More Than Can Be Imagined — In the Midst of the Problem!

Luke 1:30 NKJ Then the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid,** Mary, for you have ***found favor*** with God. 31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb** and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name **JESUS.** 32 He will be **great,** and will be called the **Son of the Highest;** and the Lord God will give Him the **throne** of His

father David. **33** And He will **reign** over the house of Jacob **forever**, and of His **kingdom** there will be no end."

C. Exceeding All Understanding, Beyond Precedent

Luke 1:34 NKJV Then Mary said to the angel, "**How** can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

Exod 40:34 NIV Then the cloud covered the Tent ... and the glory ... filled the tabernacle. **35** Moses could not enter ... because the cloud had **settled upon it**, and the glory ... filled...

Greek — ἐπισκίαζω (Mt of Transfiguration, Peter's Shadow)

Hebrew — שָׁכַן Shakan (Shekinah)

D. Granting Permission — Power of Testimony

Luke 1: 36 NKJ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37 For with God nothing will be impossible.**"

"I Do" of Faith

38 Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me **according to your word.**" And the angel departed from her.

In that Moment,
The Infinite became **Tiny**

Tiny... the womb of an teenaged virgin becomes the Temple of the Great One who cannot be contained.

God borrows Mary's flesh for His work to Save mankind from their sin & recreate the World

Mary conceives the One Who created her.

No longer His Own he made Himself **Ours**

Timelessness enters Time

The Uncreated becomes part of Creation

Eve believed a fallen angel, Mary believed Gabriel and becomes the Temple (Christ in you!)

II. Christ in Her - Missionary of Joy!

[Luke 1:39 NKJ](#) Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country **with haste**, to a city of Judah, [40](#) and entered the house of Zachariah and greeted Elizabeth. [41](#) And it happened, **when Elizabeth heard** the greeting of Mary, that **the babe leaped** in her womb; and **Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit**.

[42](#) Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "**Blessed** are you among women, and **blessed is** the fruit of your womb! [43](#) But why *is* this *granted* to me, that **the mother of my Lord** should come to me? [44](#) For indeed, **as soon as the voice** of your greeting **sounded in my ears**, the babe **leaped** in my womb **for joy**."

III. Profound Joy — The Fruit of "I Do"

[Luke 1:46 NKJ](#) And Mary said:

"My **soul magnifies** the Lord,

[47](#) And my **spirit has rejoiced** in God my Savior.

[48](#) For He has **regarded** the **lowly state** of His maidservant;
For behold, henceforth **all generations** will call me ***blessed**.

Sees the **FUTURE** as the **PRESENT**. Power of the **AGE TO COME**

[49](#) For He who is mighty **has done** great things **for me**,
And holy *is* His name. "

IV. The Love of God Appearing!

He wanted to be Loved more than Feared.

No one Fears a Baby – This will be a sign to you!

1 John 4:9 NIV This is **how God showed his love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that **we might live through him**.

Helpless... he is wrapped in cloths and cannot move. He weeps and trembles with the cold. In the feed trough he cannot feed himself, He must be held and warmed and nursed with the milk that will become his body and his blood.

Humble... born into a homeless, misunderstood, unwelcome family, his first breath includes the smell of manure.

He laid in a manger that we might be seated with Him.

He was born in a cave, that we might be born from above.

Their first visitors are not friends and family, but smelly, dazed shepherds.

Afflicted... that you might be blessed

Poor... his parents cannot afford a lamb, and buy two doves for the ritual of purification.

Adopted... Must be adopted by Joseph in order to be of the line of David. He is both adopted and protected by Joseph, the dreamer.

Fugitive... He who holds all things together, with his parents, had to run for their lives. So that you might run into His arms.

V. The Response to His Love — Living in Joy

Luke 2:10 NKJ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good tidings** of **great joy** which will be to **all people**. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matt 2:10 NKJ When they saw the star, they **rejoiced** with exceedingly **great joy**.

Isaac Watts

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth **receive** her King;
Let **ev'ry heart prepare** him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, (2x)
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their **songs employ**;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, (2x)
Repeat repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, (2x)
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes **the nations** prove
The glories of his **righteousness**,
And wonders of his **love**, (2x)
And wonders, wonders of his love.