

WALKING WITH GOD'S SON

Isaiah 7:10-16

December 16, 2019

These verses are beloved by Christians around the world. No nativity scene is complete without the phrase, "the virgin will conceive, have a son." We cherish the beauty of the miracle of the virgin birth, an amazing miracle that takes place in the humble setting of a manger and experienced first by the young couple and witnessed by neighboring shepherds. This sweet and beautiful scene can be found on Christmas cards and displayed throughout homes and churches.

However, the final element of the passage is perhaps even more miraculous than a virgin giving birth, and the words should touch and humble us all, "and name him Emmanuel". Emmanuel, which means "God with us" is the most amazing aspect of the Christmas season.

At Christmas, we celebrate the Son of God being born. The incarnation is one of the central doctrines of the faith and one of the most difficult to fathom. We struggle to understand how Christ could be fully divine and fully human.

Almost as hard to comprehend is the love of God that prompted this miracle. That the Lord of everything should enter the universe in such a humble and yet stunning way overwhelms us. That He would allow Himself to experience not only the joys of human existence but its great hardships and struggles should, even now, instill awe. The idea that God would enter into His creation like this is unique to the Christian faith.

No other religion has any concept of their god loving humanity in this way. At Christmas, this is the center of what we celebrate. The little baby, who the virgin birthed, would live a human existence. He would suffer and see those He loved suffer, and eventually, He would allow Himself to be killed.

This was because God loved us enough enter the human condition and live among us. One day, as Revelation 21:3 states, we will be in His presence, and at that time, we will experience His full glory in the way that the disciples did only briefly at the transfiguration, and we will experience it for eternity.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank you so much for the gift of your Son that we celebrate this Christmas. Help us never to forget the magnitude of this miracle. We thank you that your Son truly became a human being for our sake. We thank you that, because of His work here, we will one day be in your presence forever. Amen.

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