

“Immanuel”

Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:6-11

Big Idea – Jesus came down to show the world Who God is.

Intro: When the angel was telling Joseph about the birth of Jesus he told him this was being done in order to keep a promise that God had made through Isaiah hundreds of years before. This promise was that given in chapter 9, vs. 6 where He is called “Immanuel” which means “God with us.”

Shortly after the time of Christ, the Roman Emperor Trajan had been waiting for a report about the troublesome sect called Christians from one of his spies named Pliny the Younger. When the report finally did come, he was disappointed by its brevity and lack of accusations: “They worship one Christ, whom they revere as God.”

Pliny’s brief report also claimed that the Christians “gather early in the morning and sing a hymn” to this Christ whom they worship. Many scholars believe that this is the hymn found in Philippians 2:6-11 which has come to be known as the “Carmen Christi” or “Hymn to Christ.” Socrates said, “When the soul hears music it lets down its best guard.” And so with music, these early saints learned and embraced profound doctrinal truths, by means of a simple melody.

Philippians 2:6-11 Who, being in the form of God did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself as nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant.

8 And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and bring glory to God the Father.

Notice these sublime statements in our text on the person of Christ, the promised One.

1. He was Divine – His Pre-Existence

Philippians 2:6 “Who being in the form of God...”

“In the form of God”- means Christ’s actual essence in Heaven, as one of the Trinity before birth in Bethlehem.

Parallels John 1:1; also Jn. 17:5 speaks of His former glory

John 1:1 “In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

John 17:5 “...O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

2. He was **Human – His Incarnation**

Philippians 2:7 “But he gave up his place with God and made himself as nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant.”

Called “*kenosis* – “emptying” – He did not give up His divine powers or prerogatives, but rather the independent use of those powers. So, when He was born, He was born of the Holy Spirit, when He spoke He spoke the words of His Father, when He did a miracle, He did it in His Father’s power. In other words, He voluntarily made Himself dependent on the Father.

(1). What He gave up-“the form of God” and this was His pre-human form of existence as a member of the Trinity. He left the glories of heaven to become a baby.

(2). What He took up-“the form of a servant” and “the likeness of men.”

Christ’s self-emptying consisted in the following:

He Walked in His Father’s Way- John 16:28 “I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

He Willed His Father’s Will – John 5:30 “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

He Spoke His Father’s Word – John 14:24 “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

He Did His Father’s Work - John 17:3 “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”

He Sought His Father’s Aid – John 11:41 “Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.”

He Aimed at His Father’s Glory – John 8:49 “Jesus answered ... I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.”

If you don’t honor/worship/revere Jesus, you are not honoring God the Father.

John 5:23b “Anyone who does not honor the Son is certainly not honoring the Father who sent him.”

3. He Was Obedient – His Atonement

Philippians 2:8 “... while he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

To what did Jesus become obedient? Unto death.

Notice these contrasts:

In His incarnation He became obedient unto life and gave up the glories of Heaven.

In His crucifixion He became obedient unto death, giving up His life.

Because the original fall of man, the first Adam, was in the area of disobedience, the redemption of man by Jesus, the last Adam, was through His obedience.

This obedience involved a cross, and it is true that death by crucifixion was so common in Jesus' day that thousands had died on crosses by the time of Christ's death. So, what made Jesus' death on a cross any different?

The difference is that Jesus Christ did not and could not have died naturally; He could not have died of sickness, starvation, accident or even natural crucifixion. The only way He could die was by obedience to God. Since death was a consequence resulting from sin, Jesus would never have known death, for He had no sin. He died for your sins and mine, and He only died when He voluntarily laid down His life.

John 10:17,18 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

So, the birth and death of Christ are two parts of one purpose; He had to be born for new life to enter the world, and He had to die to give that new life to whoever would believe in Him.

4. He was Exalted – His Resurrection and Ascension

Philippians 2:9 “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name”

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose again. God exalted or honored Him by giving Him “the Name” which is above every name. What

name is this? I believe it is the name JEHOVAH, the I Am of Exodus 3:13 and John 8:58.

5. He is Supreme – His Return

Philippians 2:10, 11 "...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father."

Notice it does not say at the "name Jesus" but at the name of Jesus. It will be before the revealed majesty of the returning LORD

The adoration of every knee bowing.

The acknowledgment of every tongue confessing.

They will all confess that Jesus Christ is the LORD GOD. Cf. Rom. 10:9,10,13.

What does it mean when it speaks of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth? It is talking about the entire universe giving a crescendo of praise to God.

All of creation will do this as the universe moves into eternity future under the direction of Jesus Christ.

You may remember watching a conductor of an orchestra bringing into action every member of his symphony at the climax of some great piece of music, until at the last crashing chord not one was quiet, but all were uniting in a thrilling and triumphant climax.

So here, the Son of God, Jehovah, the great I Am summons everything in creation to swell the glorious unison of God's praise. He signals to the sun riding in the heavens, "You come in now and praise Him." Then to the myriad of stars in the universe, "You now praise Him." Then, to the mountains, raking the clouds with their summits, "Praise Him!" Then, to the world leaders of all the governments, "You, praise Him." Finally, to the multitude of saints in heaven and earth, "Praise Him!" until the whole wide universe is shouting with every voice the praise of God alone.