

GOD WITH US

Brother Jason Bright
Phoenix Assembly Church
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Edited by Sister Nicole Wentzell

This morning the title is God with Us. It's really an extension of last Sunday's message. Last Sunday the subject was The Son of the Living God. To see the verse from which we take our title, let's start reading in Matthew.

Matthew 1:21

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

Matthew 1:22

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

Matthew 1:23

Behold, 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.

Now we have read the Gospels and we have read about the life of Jesus. I don't know any place where we see that someone called him or said good morning Emmanuel. This is speaking that *by revelation* we could see him as *God with us*. This message may be more helpful to the younger ones, but also to some who are older because of the traditional teachings out of which we were brought.

The religious world in general is basically Trinitarian. In fact, many of them don't even question how they look at the godhead. They think it's an established official doctrine that God is a Trinity. God is *not* a Trinity. Praise the Lord. That is a false teaching that runs contrary to the Word. People have that Trinitarian teaching, and there is also the Jesus Only doctrine. Both camps see Jesus as God. I have heard them say God was born in a stable. No, God was not born in a stable. In fact, God was never born. Amen. I have also heard them say God died on the cross. No He did not. God was never born, He has not died, and He will never die. God is the Eternal Spirit. Praise the Lord.

You can't see God with your eyes, and you will never see Him with your physical eyes. You will never see God in the Eternal Age with your physical eyes. But you can see God with your spiritual eyes by what He has done, by what He is doing, and by how He reveals Himself.

This Word declares God, and Jesus Christ *manifested* God. That's why he could be called *God with us*, because God dwelt in him and was manifested through him. Praise the Lord.

When Jesus was born, he was not God with us. When Jesus spoke with the rabbis in the temple at twelve years old, he was not God with us, but he was the perfect Son of God. Praise the Lord. He was obedient to his Heavenly Father, and as he was still not of age, he was also obedient to his earthly parents. Praise the Lord.

The day came when he was baptized. That's when he received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and he received it without measure. That's the day God began to *abide* in the person of His Son and began to be expressed through the person of His Son. Praise the Lord. That's when Jesus Christ began to be manifested as *God with us* or Emmanuel.

Let's go to Psalm 104. There is so much we could read in the Old Testament. I'm just going to read a little bit. As David is anointed by the Spirit of God, he says *Bless the LORD*. In English the word is LORD, but really it's Jehovah God.

Psalm 104:1

Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

Today we are beginning to see more than we ever have. He says *Thou art clothed with honour and majesty*. They now have powerful telescopes through which they can look into space and see enormous galaxies and nebulas. How beautiful and magnificent!

They say this is ten thousand light years across, which means it takes light ten thousand years to make it from one side to the other. We are so far away we can see the whole thing, but our mind can't comprehend how magnificent and great that is. Our mind cannot comprehend light moving for ten thousand years. We can hear the number and maybe we can comprehend the time. But when you know how fast light moves and to think about the distance, it's just something we can't comprehend. And that's just a little drop in this entire universe that God has created.

Let's keep reading.

Psalm 104:2

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.

There is so much we could look at just in the last hundred years. The astronomers and physicists have come to understand what we call black holes, which really are the remnants of an extremely dense star or thousands of stars. When we look at them, they are actually black because all the light gets sucked into them, and the light that is in there cannot escape. We know that we will never get into one of those, and that's a good thing. But if we were to get to a certain point, we would see inside they are covered in light. In a sense, they are the most important and powerful objects in the universe.

Here David says *You cover yourself with light*, and he says *You stretch out the heavens like a curtain*. I will never forget the day I sat in physics class and they talked about what is called *the red shift*. They had a diagram and it looked just like a curtain being extended.

Even though David was not in a physics class, the Holy Ghost inspired him to write about things he could not even see with his natural eyes. That is Almighty God. Can we see that? It was not the Lord Jesus who extended the heavens as a curtain.

When we take a trip to the Grand Canyon and we say how beautiful and majestic it is, it was not the Lord Jesus who spoke that canyon into existence. It was not the Lord Jesus out there saying I'm going to sculpt it this way and that way. If we think of it like that, then we don't really understand who he was, and we can't really appreciate what he did for us.

I have to say, he was a man. Just as I cannot create a mountain, which is far beyond the capacity of any man, he also did not create a mountain. Can we see that he did not?

But what did he do? He did something I could not do. He lived a life with no sin. I have a nature to sin. I was born with a nature to sin. He was born without that nature. But he went to a level higher than just having no sin, though no other man even got to that level. He desired to be obedient and to perform the perfect will of God. And God saw for thirty years, Jesus never sinned.

Then Jesus was baptized, but he did not need to be baptized for salvation or to be cleaned from some impurity. John said *What do you mean you want me to baptize you? I need to be baptized of you!* [Matthew 3:14] But Jesus said *Let it be so. You don't understand now but there is a bigger picture.* [Matthew 3:15]

Why was that? I see two things: number one, Jesus was our perfect example. There are people today who say they don't need to be baptized. If Jesus Christ who knew no sin was baptized, they are going to be without excuse because they have sinned and they put themselves above the Lord. He subjected himself to baptism and they will not. I'm glad I will not be in their shoes on that day to give an account because they are going to be speechless.

The other thing, the sacrifice was always washed before it was offered. That makes him a type of showing that he will be the sacrifice. Again, not that he needed to be cleaned of any impurity, he did not, but as a type that he is going to be the sacrifice.

Let's keep reading here about Almighty God.

Psalm 104:3

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind.

Up to this part we see the greatness, we see the majesty, and we see the power. We would think, how could He be interested in you and me? But even as great as God is, He desired a family of beings like Himself with whom He could have fellowship.

The next verse begins to bring that part into focus.

Psalm 104:4

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire.

One way we can look at that, in judgment He administers judgment by a flaming fire. At the same time, as He speaks to you and me through His ministry, that sets up a flaming fire in your heart and my heart. Praise the Lord. As the Word of God is opened to us, it becomes fire shut up in our bones. Praise the Lord.

Now let's go to Exodus. As Moses goes to take the children of Israel out of Egypt, he is asking, what am I going to say as far as who sent me?

Exodus 3:14

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Praise the Lord. *I AM*. There is no other god that has a name like that name. We can look throughout the universe, everything we see had some kind of a beginning. We can look at ourselves. We can say we were born, most of us in a hospital to our parents. They were born to their parents, etcetera.

We look at this planet, the scientists say one day there was all this dust and mass swirling around, and then gravity began to pull it all together. We can go further back than that and they say there was a big bang. Everything we see had a beginning. But there is One, He says *I AM BECAUSE I AM*. Praise the Lord. In other words, *I EXIST OF MY OWN ACCORD*. Praise the Lord. That is higher than everything else we can think of.

God did not have a beginning. Today you and I are moving through time. Every now and then we are reminded of that when we look in the mirror and we see changes. Or we wake up and we feel changes. We are moving through time but God is outside all of that. For God it's not January the 29th 2023, for you and me it is and we are moving along in time. God is outside of that. He does not dwell in space or time, but He is the One with the great plan.

He is the One who can redeem. That is one of His beautiful characteristics. God can redeem a creation which has come to a state that deserves judgment and destruction. Instead of having to destroy it and create another, He can redeem that fallen creation. He desired to express that attribute of redemption.

He saw that once He would create man, they were going to fall, but He loved us. In His mind before we were ever created, He loved us so much He was willing that His only begotten Son would suffer and die to make a way and to pay the price so you and I could come back into a fellowship that was lost.

Before man sinned, they had that fellowship with God from time to time. The presence of God would come in the cool of the day, and how they would rejoice! But they lost that.

Since then, man has tried to find his way back. He goes to the top of a mountain far away from society. He meditates and he fasts, and many times he even takes certain natural drugs. He can get so far in the spiritual realm, but he never can cross over and obtain that which was lost. For four thousand years man has tried.

Then one day God sent His son. Praise the Lord. He did not send him from up in heaven as if the Lord Jesus Christ had been sitting on a throne. Show me that in this Word. Show me in the Old Testament where the Lord Jesus Christ was sitting in heaven on a throne. He was not there. It's not in the Word.

We only see the Lord Jesus Christ spoken of either prophetically that he is going to come, or in types. The Old Testament is full of those prophecies and types because God's heart was to redeem mankind through the person of His Son.

God is the One who had the plan. Can we see that? God had the plan, not the Lord Jesus Christ. But Jesus was obedient and desired to fulfill the plan of God. Praise the Lord. He did so by his obedience, his sacrifice, and his love for you and me.

I have mentioned his obedience. That was important, but it does not mean he was only obedient. Remember, he had the same heart as his Heavenly Father. Just as God desired a family, so did our Lord Jesus Christ and he loved you and me just as well. Praise the Lord.

Last week we read that as Jesus grew, he was filled with wisdom and he grew in knowledge. [Luke 2:40] This should also be something to help us. In our natural interpretation when we read *God sent His Son* we think there is only one way that could happen: His Son was in heaven and God sent him. But remember what we read last Sunday in the book of John.

John 1:6

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The apostle John is speaking of John the Baptist. Are we going to say that John the Baptist was also up there in heaven? We are not saying that. I have never heard it preached that John the Baptist was in heaven and then God sent him. I will say, neither was the Lord Jesus Christ.

I don't know how it would even be, to lose all memory and everything, and then be born. That is not biblical. It says as he grew into adulthood Jesus was filled with wisdom and grew in knowledge. Does that mean he knew all mathematics and all the laws of physics? That's not what it means. It is referring to his *spiritual understanding*. Again, if he is our example, would God not desire the same of you and me?

In his letter to the Colossians Paul wrote:

Colossians 1:9

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Did Paul desire that only of the Colossians? We know it is not only them otherwise we would not have this Bible. This is for us too, that we *might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*. As long as we are here there will be more for us to learn *in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*. I remember many times Brother Jackson saying revelation is a spiritual understanding. If I can rephrase what Paul wrote: *in all wisdom and revelation*. Praise the Lord.

How much more in our day? Since God began to restore the Word back to the church in the 1950s and 1960s. From what we have seen in the book of Revelation, we know the Spirit on this age is that of a flying eagle. An eagle is a bird that desires meat. Amen. We would not see an eagle in a corn field eating the corn, but an eagle desires fresh meat. That is the truth. An eagle is not a vulture. An eagle would not fly around something that was killed three days ago as if it looks like a good meal, but the vulture does that. Now I am not calling anyone a vulture, but what I am saying is that the eagle desires *fresh meat*.

For somebody to say that what God brought fifty years ago with Brother Branham is still fresh meat today, I have to say I don't understand your thinking. How can you say that is still fresh meat? Can we understand? We appreciate and we thank God for what was brought fifty years ago. Amen. But if we get an attitude that there is nothing more and we just go back to that, it becomes death to us.

There is nothing wrong with what was brought then, but we cannot ignore and stand against what God has continued to bring and what He is bringing in our day. If we do, how can we say that we see the former by revelation, but we can't see the truths revealed by the same Spirit in the Second Watch and now in this Third Watch? It is the same Spirit that reveals it. We would have to understand that we believe it by knowledge, not by true revelation. If we knew it by revelation as a true eagle, we would have a desire, an appetite, to continue to feast on the Word of God. Praise the Lord.

Now let's go ahead to the book of Matthew.

Matthew 3:13

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

Notice it says Jesus. It does not say Jesus Christ. He was not yet the Christ which means the anointed.

Matthew 3:14

But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

I have to say amen. That's the way you and I would look at it. Jesus has no sin. Jesus is perfect.

Matthew 3:15

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: In other words, let it be so for right now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Jesus could see a picture bigger than what John could see. In other words, you might not understand, but believe me. Then he suffered him.

Matthew 3:16

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him.

Jesus has this vision of the Spirit of God coming down as a dove landing on him.

Matthew 3:17

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

In another translation it says *in whom I am pleased to dwell*. As a type Jesus is baptized, not for the remission of sin, he had no sin. Jesus did not repent before he was baptized. Jesus had nothing to repent of. Praise the Lord. Jesus did not need salvation, he was worthy. You and I are not worthy of eternal life. You and I are not worthy that God would come and dwell in us, but Jesus was worthy.

As Jesus was obedient to God, God shows him to go be baptized. He does it and the Spirit of God comes from that point. Now he is the Christ. Now he is *God with us*.

Philip said *Lord show us the Father and we'll be content*. [John 14:8] What did Jesus say? *Have you been so long with me Philip, and you still say show me the Father? He who has seen me has seen the Father*. [John 14:9]

What does that mean? Was Jesus saying I am the Father? No he was not. Jesus was not even saying that if somebody was walking down the road and here comes Jesus and they saw him, that oh they saw the Father. Jesus was not saying that.

It was not looking at the man Jesus with natural eyes, as if oh now I have seen the Father. No you have not seen Him, but what was it? It was the words he spoke, it was the works he did, and it was the miracles. It was when he said to the storm *Peace, be still* [Mark 4:39] and there was a great calm. I believe they marvelled at how perfectly and beautifully flat that water became without even a ripple. What was that? That was Jesus displaying Almighty God through his life. Praise the Lord.

John later said *God did not give him the Spirit by measure*. [John 3:34] To you and me He gave the Spirit by measure because He knows to what extent we are able to allow the Spirit to work in our lives. Jesus Christ was an apostle, a prophet, a teacher, an evangelist, and a pastor. He could speak in tongues and he could interpret tongues. He had the gift of knowledge, the gift of wisdom, the gift of healing, and every aspect in which Almighty God works in a redemptive manner. It was all expressed in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the perfect plan of God. Praise the Lord.

Let's go to Second Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:18

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2 Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

So God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. God is the one who saved you and me by the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the one who did the work. He went to Calvary, he went to the cross, he was obedient, and he suffered as nobody has suffered willingly.

You and I probably could not even have a tooth taken out willingly without first getting anaesthetic drugs. That is nothing compared to what Jesus Christ went through. He shed his blood, his precious blood, so that you and I could have access to eternal life.

What did he say? He said *all that You have given me*. [John 17:10] God is the One who chose you and me in Christ before the foundation of the world. Then by his sacrifice he paid the debt. He was triumphant over death, hell and the grave, rising again on the third day, victorious. And you and I can also have victory if so be we are in Christ. Praise the Lord.

I'm going to close with that this morning. Let's go ahead and pray.