

## **His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (10)** **Emmanuel**

The prophecy of Isaiah brings before us the person of the Lord Jesus Christ in wonderful picture and type. From His virgin birth to His suffering for sin and His ultimate rule over the nations, Isaiah points to the Messiah with amazing detail and clarity.

Isaiah records the time when Rezin, king of Syria and Pekah king of Israel made war against Ahaz, king of Judah. The Lord told Ahaz to ask for a sign, either in the depth or in the height above. Ahaz responded that he would not tempt the Lord by asking a sign.

Then comes this wonderful statement, prophesying the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus, *“therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name, Immanuel”* (Isa. 7:1-14).

It is interesting to note that the Lord told king Ahaz to ask a sign either in the depth or in the height above. Paul wrote of the supremacy of the Lord Jesus, over all that is in the depths and all that is in the heights; *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth”* (Phil. 2:9-10).

Matthew, the Gospel writer, records the visit of an angel to Joseph, encouraging him to take Mary for his wife. The angel informed Joseph that the child conceived in the womb of Mary, was of the Holy Spirit, and that His name would be called Jesus (Saviour), for He would save His people from their sins.

We learn from Matthew that this was in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy, concerning the virgin that would conceive and bear a son. Matthew tells us that His name would be called, *“Emmanuel”*, meaning, *“God with us”* (Matt. 1:20-23). *“Emmanuel”*, or, *“Immanuel”*, as referred to in Isaiah, is another divine title of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This reminds us of His coming into the world in wondrous incarnation. Just as Isaiah prophesied concerning the sign the Lord promised, an angel appeared to shepherds as they kept watch over their flocks, and told them of the Saviour, Christ the Lord, born in the city of David. The angel said, *“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”* (Luke 2:8-12).

It is beyond our ability to comprehend, that the babe lying in the manger was the eternal God, the creator. Paul wrote, *“great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh”* (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 3:16). The Lord Jesus is God, yet He took upon Himself human likeness. Paul wrote concerning the incarnation of the Lord Jesus in the book of Philippians, *“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men”* (Phil. 2:6-7).

John wrote of Him, *“in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”* (Jn. 1:1). Then he wrote, *“and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”* (Jn. 1:14).

In taking upon Himself human likeness, the Lord Jesus became what He never was before, but He never ceased to be all that He ever was from all eternity. Paul informs us in the book of Colossians, *“in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily”* (Col. 2:9).

What is most amazing is to realize that the Lord Jesus took upon Himself human likeness in order that He might go to the cross to provide eternal redemption for us through His sacrificial, substitutionary death for us. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews, guided by the Holy Spirit of God, penned these words, “*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man*” (Heb. 2:9).

The apostle Paul wrote, “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself*” (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:19). A Roman centurion, along with others, watched as the Lord Jesus suffered on the cross on account of the sin of mankind and had to acknowledge, “*truly this was the Son of God*” (Matt. 27:54).

*Lo, in wondrous incarnation,  
Son of God from heaven came;  
He, the Author of salvation,  
Called Emmanuel, His name.*

*Fullest deity possessing,  
Yet, in human likeness made;  
In both words and deeds expressing,  
Thus His Godhead is displayed.*

*Deigns to dwell among His creatures,  
God, in condescending grace;  
All the glory of His features,  
Shining in the Saviour’s face.*

*God in Christ makes intercession,  
Through the shedding of His blood;  
Now our sins in full remission,  
Man is reconciled to God.*

*We with Him shall live forever;  
He with us content to dwell;  
Naught in earth or hell can sever,  
From our blest Emmanuel.*

**Bernie Payne**