

**December 20, 2009**

**Immanuel.**

Matt.1:23, "They shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, 'God with us'."

God created Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden. And God was with them. We learn from Gen.3:8 that God used to come and visit with them. But when Adam and Eve sinned a separation came between them and God. Vs.8 tells us that when they heard God coming, they ran and hid from the presence of the Lord God. God was no longer with them. The separation from God is overtly sealed in Gen.3:24. We read, "So God drove the man out [from the Garden]."

Before God drove them out a promise was made in Gen.3:15. The woman's seed will come and crush the serpent (the devil; cf. Rev.12:9). The promise is repeated in Isa.7:14, "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." The promised Immanuel, God with us, is the Lord Jesus Christ. John says He "became flesh and dwelt among us." (Jn.1:14).

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the coming of Immanuel, God with us. In Matt.18:20 the promise is made to the church, "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." God with us.

The Gospel of Matthew ends just prior to the departure (ascension) of Jesus. But the final words in Matthew's gospel is the promise, "lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt.28:20). Even though He has ascended to the Father, He is still Immanuel, God with us.

When this age ends, the new heaven and the new earth will be ushered in. In Rev.21:3 we read, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them." Immanuel, God with

us for all eternity! Rev.22:3-4 says the Lamb will be there, "and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face."

If the Lord is your "Immanuel" now, then and only then will He be your "Immanuel" for all eternity.