



And they will call him Immanuel which means 'God with us'. Matthew 1:23

## *Bible Study:*



This lesson, which comes out of Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2, is the story of Jesus's birth. We see a continuing pattern of angels delivering amazing and miraculous news to people. It started with the Gabriel's visit to Zechariah to tell him that his barren wife, who was well beyond her child-bearing years, would give birth to a son to be named John who prepare people for the coming of Jesus. Following that, Gabriel visited Mary to tell her she was going to give birth to the forever-King, Jesus. This lesson contains two angel encounters – one to Joseph, and one to the shepherds. As you read this section of scripture, contemplate how all of heaven must have been celebrating in watching this amazing point in history – The Incarnation (God putting on flesh to be among us)!

## *The gospel in the story:*



Jesus' name literally means "**Jehovah (God) is salvation**". It is not a new idea that shows up in the Bible around the time Jesus was born. This important truth is first pointed to in Exodus 15 in the song of Moses and Miriam when they proclaim that "the Lord has become my salvation." This was in reference to the miraculous deliverance of the Hebrew nation from slavery under Egypt. And that exodus story is an archetype for the gospel which teaches that **without God's salvation we are all slaves to sin**.

Proclamations of God being our salvation are abundant throughout the Old Testament (2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Chronicles, Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, and Zechariah to name a few). And the angel who delivered the news to Joseph confirmed this amazing truth in Matthew 1:21 when he told Joseph, "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

## *Application*

The story of Jesus' birth is not just a good story for Christmas time. It's the story that the hurting and lost world desperately needs to hear. That God in His infinite mercy and Grace chose to come to us, to restore a relationship that had been torn by Satan, sin and death, points to how great His love is for us!