

## "COME, O COME, IMMANUEL"

### Hymn - "O Come, O Come, Immanuel"

**Introduction:** The hymn writer of this great hymn captured the mood of Israel as the nation longed for the appearance of the promised Messiah. The prophecies about the Messiah had been argued so much through the centuries that their true teaching had been lost.

Prophets had been silent for 400 years. Israel was poor, under Rome's iron hand. It was a time for hanging on in hope that the silence of God would finally be broken. Little did Israel know but the 400 year silence was about to be broken by the cry of a tiny infant.

Prophetic passages about the Messiah had revealed the place, person, and purpose in terms that would allow the simplest to understand God's intentions.

- God would step into time, not majestically, on a cloud with a large army but...
- God would gain entrance in the humblest of ways - "born of a woman."
- Isaiah gave the first of three signs regarding the promised Messiah:
  - *Isaiah 7:14* - to be born of a virgin woman.
  - *John 2:18-22* - a resurrection.
  - *Matthew 24:30* - a second coming.

### I. THE PLACE OF HIS COMING

1. Mary, a virgin girl from Nazareth (the Galilee area), would conceive miraculously.
2. Bethlehem would be the place of the birth. (*Micah 5:2*)

### II. THE PERSON - WHO WOULD HE BE?

1. Scholars held various positions about WHO the Messiah would be:
  - a prophet, a warrior, a judge, a king, a teacher of the law.
2. All agreed that the Messiah would be sent by God, but nobody ever thought that the Messiah would be a savior for everyone.
3. The Messiah would be EVERYTHING except God's Divine Son.
  - somehow the scholars overlooked *Isaiah 7:14b*

### III. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

1. Earthly princes are born with "much to do" by the people, rejoicing and acknowledging the future king. When time came to be king, people cheer and bow before their king.
  - Great expectations and hopes run high in the kingdom.
2. Sadly, but a fact, no earthly king has ever been able to fulfill all expected of him. Thus Israel waited for hundreds of years for that ONE promised by God who would be able to do all that the others could not do.

3. He DID come. God never intended for the promised one's appearance to be missed or hidden  
(*Isaiah 9:6-7*)
  - In clear, precise prophecies God told Israel what to expect, but even TODAY Israel is still looking.
  - *John 1:11*
4. Israel was looking to and listening to the wrong people for their religious leaders were blind and selfish.
5. God came to the simple, the humble, the lowly shepherds.
  - *Luke 2:10-11*

## CONCLUSION:

1. The Kingdom of Israel has been temporarily set aside in order that GRACE GREATER THAN MAN'S SINS may prevail.
  - God limited Himself to a human body of blood, flesh and bone in order to be able to die as a sacrifice for mankind who had rebelled against Him.
2. The human mind cannot begin to take in all that is involved in the coming of God in the flesh.
  - Those who insist on understanding it all before they accept it are doomed.
  - Mankind will never be able to grasp the mind of God.
3. What God has given man to understand is SIMPLE to acknowledge and to respond back in simplicity.
  - *Isaiah 45:21-22*
  - *John 3:16*
  - *Acts 16:3*
4. Jesus was born in order to make it possible for you and me and "whosoever" to be born again.