

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Psalm 126:1-6

I. Sin Left Israel in a Sad State But Grace Held Out Hope

- A. Time is in God's hands - Even The Hard Times. A Song of degrees. When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. (Psalm 126:1)
- B. When God restores, He does it in public. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. (Psalm 126:2-3)
- C. The repentant who turn in confidence to God receive abundant blessings from God. Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:4-6)
- D. Whether God punishes or praises, the results bless His people. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? (Romans 11:15)

II. God Gave Israel a Sign of Hope

- A. The Virgin Birth was an ancient promise of the Incarnation and through that of the Messiah. Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)
- B. The promise of the Virgin birth made possible the Incarnation of God and through that all the hopes and expectations of the Messiah. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- C. Trust in the promise of a comforter sustained Israel in its darkest times. For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. (Isaiah 51:3)
- D. Isaiah's prophecy of a God-Man Messiah came to pass in Mary's day. 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. (Matthew 1:23)
- E. Through the Virgin birth believers encounter God directly in human form. 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. (John 1:14)
- F. Emmanuel expresses the only possible way to accomplish the substitutionary atonement. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

III. God Kept His Word

- A. The messiah will be God and Man and He will save. And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isaiah 25:9)
- B. In Jesus, Paul saw the fulfillment of the Davidic prophecies. Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: (Romans 1:3-4)
- C. New Testament Christianity demands the Incarnation. Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 9:5)
- D. The Incarnation promised through Mary's son is the mechanism by which the substitutionary atonement could be accomplished. 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. (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- E. The Incarnation is a great but compelling mystery. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)
- F. The wisdom of God expressed in the Incarnation is a mystery. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (1 Corinthians 2:7)