

Immanuel

God’s Eternal Plan

God with us

Before the Foundation of the Earth

Ephesians 1:4-5 “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world... he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ”

In the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day.”

In the Tabernacle/Temple

Psalms 84:1-2 “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
“My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD.”

In Christ

Matthew 1:23 “...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

Through the Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:20 – “I will be with you always”
Romans 8:15 – “You received the Spirit of adoption as sons”

In the New Heavens and New Earth

Revelation 21:3 “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

Jesus as king and savior

Wonderful news that reveals and solves a huge problem

We need a king to deal with evil (vs. 20)

We need a savior to deal with our evil (vs. 21)

Joseph’s Predicament

An unbelievable message in a difficult situation

Internal Pressure – doubt... can I trust her? Is this real?

External Pressure – shame... what will people think of me? My life will be worse!

Joseph’ Obedience – “He did as God commanded him.”

He saw his place in God’s eternal plan

Naming Jesus

God’s plan always causes problems for those involved

He did not lean on his own understanding

“There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy” – Hamlet

He surrendered control of his life in response to God’s message

How to know God’s will for your life: S.O.A.P.

Surrender to God’s will, Obey God’s law, Apply wisdom, pick your preference

He feared God more than the cultural expectations around him

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How is Jesus the fulfillment of God’s eternal plan?
2. Imagine being Joseph in this story. What would be hardest for you to do or believe?
3. What does it mean for you to rest in God’s sovereignty?
4. How is Joseph an example of what discipleship looks like?