



A Confused Christmas | THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS

Matthew 1:18-25

I never want our kids to be confused about Christmas. = Fam, Fun, Food, Presents, Doing nice things for people...

Its easy to get confused about Christmas for a kid...lots of different sights, sounds, smells...traditions!→Mt. 1:18-25

→Summary: Do you remember how you understood Christmas as a kid? It might have been confusing with all the different sights, sounds, & traditions. Society may be confused, but our families do not need to be! Through intentional teaching of the Biblical passages, explanation of traditions, and careful study of the lyrics of the Christmas songs we sing, we can give the Christmas story the opportunity to bring clarity to our lives.

→How can the Christmas story bring clarity to my life?→Lets start with His birth His name...Purpose.

Matthew 1:18-25: 18 *This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.* 19 *Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.*

20 *As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and **you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**"*

22 *All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:*

23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

24 *When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25 But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. **And Joseph named him Jesus.***

We are confused about His BIRTH.→His birth reveals both his Humanity & His divinity.

- The text states clearly: Jesus had a **natural birth**...but a **supernatural conception**.→Colossians 2:9
- Jesus was no ordinary baby!→Every parent believes...→Fully God/Man→Doctrine doesn't matter! - Keller Quote
- He needed to be God so our sins could actually BE forgiven...He needed to be Man so we'd know how to follow...
- Story: "God Became One of Us"→I needed God to become "one of us" so that i could understand His intentions...

→TRANSITION: His Birth Story reveals God became one of US...and His name further proves God's intentions.

We are confused about His NAME.→Elf names: Puddin Pointy Toes→Know/Teach the meaning of Jesus' names/titles.

- The Gospel is in His name: Jesus (Greek/Latin/English translation) / Yeshua = Joshua = YHWY saves.
- Emmanuel (Is. 7:14) = God with us = CALLED not named...WHO Jesus is...→Tom Brady = G.O.A.T. (Sorry Nate)
- I need Jesus to save me from my sins. I am not the G.O.A.T. I need God's help!→Candy Cane Gospel Message

→TRANSITION: The name the Angel gave to Joseph revealed my need for a Savior. Other things he's been called?

We are confused about His PURPOSE.→Jesus plays for Chelsea...→Pic of Jesus in a Jersey

- Names REVEAL purpose!→I want my kids to not only know Jesus name...but WHY He came!
- Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel [an ancient monk [8th cent. antiphons/chant] & an exiled priest]: John Mason Neale [1818], spoke 20 languages, Madeira Islands = Sisterhood, orphanage, school for girls, house for prostitutes.
 - Prayer to Jesus by Prophetic Name / Answer [Refrain]→Already / Not Yet→Birth & 2nd Coming

- **Emmanuel:** Is. 7:14 & Mt. 1:23.→God is WITH us!
 - **Rod (or Branch) of Jesse:** Isaiah 11:1 & 10, Rom. 15:8-13→Jesus will bring SALVATION to Jew & Gentile.
 - **Dayspring/Morning Star:** Mal. 4:1-3, Is. 9:2, 2 Pt. 1:19, Rev. 22:16→Jesus is TRUTH.
 - **Key of David:** Is. 22:22, Is. 9:6→Jesus has AUTHORITY.
 - **Adonai (Lord of Might):** Is. 33:22→Reference to the Book of Exodus (Sinai, Law, & Fire/Cloud). POWER.
 - **Wisdom:** Is. 11:2-3→Jesus will bring order through revealing path of knowledge and cause us to walk in it.
 - **Desire (King) of Nations:** Haggai 2:7, Is. 2:4→We need Jesus to RULE with justice and authority.
 - I need God with us, His Salvation, His Truth, His authority, His Power, His Wisdom, & His RULE.
 - Jesus Purpose brings CLARITY to my life!→Evaluate every tradition/decision/song by what it reveals about Jesus!
 - VISION: Christmas Eve Service.→Prayer: Lord, help us to PAUSE & reflect on WHY Christmas matters so much.
- TRANSITION: Clarity comes through Jesus...so we must not be confused about Christmas.
 →If we are **CONFUSED** about Christmas, Jesus can't bring **CLARITY** to our lives!

TALK ABOUT IT - Questions to GROW through with family, friends, & myself.

1. What confused me about Christmas? What still confuses me?
2. Why is it important to understand why the birth narratives of Jesus matter so much?
3. What does Jesus mean? What does "Emmanuel" mean? How does each help us understand Christmas?
4. Why/how does the story of Christmas help bring clarity to the way i understand my life?
5. **PRAYER:** "Father, help me me to PAUSE & reflect on WHY Christmas matters so much!"

QUOTES / SONGS:

"When you say, 'Doctrine doesn't matter; what matters is that you live a good life,' that is a doctrine. It is called the doctrine of salvation by your works rather than by grace. It assumes that you are not so bad that you need a Savior, that you are not so weak that you can't pull yourself together and live as you should. You are actually espousing a whole set of doctrines about the nature of God, humanity, and sin. And the message of Christmas is that they are all wrong." (131)" - Tim Keller

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Translated by John Mason Neale

O come, O come, **Emmanuel**,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here,
 Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, **Thou Rod of Jesse**, free
 Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
 From depths of hell Thy people save,
 And give them victory o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou **Dayspring**, from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou **Key of David**, come
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, **Adonai**, Lord of might,
 Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
 In ancient times didst give the law
 In cloud and majesty and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.

LINKS / RESOURCES:

- Christmas “**The Word Made Flesh**” Christology: <https://www.christologystatement.com>
- Web Article “**Children confused about the nativity story think Jesus plays for Chelsea**” Christology: <https://metro.co.uk/2014/12/11/children-confused-about-the-nativity-story-think-jesus-plays-for-chelsea-4982928/>
- Song History: “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel” https://hymnary.org/text/o_come_o_come_emmanuel_and_ransom

SCRIPTURES: New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Colossians 2:9

9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

Isaiah 7:10-16

10 Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.”

12 But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the Lord like that.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? 14 All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him **Immanuel** (which means ‘**God is with us**’). 15 By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. 16 For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

Isaiah 11:1

1 Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot—yes, a new **Branch** bearing fruit from the old root.

Isaiah 11:10

10 In that day **the heir to David’s throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world**. The nations will rally to him, and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.

Romans 15:8-13

8 Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. 9 He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

“For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name.”

10 And in another place it is written, “Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles.”

11 And yet again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth.”

12 And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David’s throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.”

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Malachi 4:1-3

4 The Lord of Heaven’s Armies says, “The day of judgment is coming, burning like a furnace. On that day the arrogant and the wicked will be burned up like straw. They will be consumed—roots, branches, and all.

2 “But for you who fear my name, **the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing** in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture. 3 On the day when I act, you will tread upon the wicked as if they were dust under your feet,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

Isaiah 9:2

2 The people who walk in darkness will see **a great light**. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

2 Peter 1:18-20

18 We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and **Christ the Morning Star** shines in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding,

Revelation 22:16

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. **I am the bright morning star.**"

Isaiah 22:22

22 **I will give him the key to the house of David**—the highest position in the royal court. When he opens doors, no one will be able to close them; when he closes doors, no one will be able to open them.

Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. **The government will rest on his shoulders.** And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 33:22

22 For **the Lord is our judge, our lawgiver, and our king.** He will care for us and save us.

Isaiah 11

2 And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—**the Spirit of wisdom and understanding**, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 He will delight in obeying the Lord. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.

4 He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

Haggai 2:7

7 I will shake all the nations, and the treasures of all the nations will be brought to this Temple. I will fill this place with glory, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies.

Is. 2:4

4 The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore.

MESA CHRISTMAS LINKS:



- Youtube SHAREABLE Christmas Invite: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XcTiNu66cTQ&t=33s>
- Christmas Season Details? Click: <https://mesa.church/christmas>

MESA VISION LINKS:

- Who is Mesa? Click: [ID.Mission.Vision](#)
- What is the vision of Mesa Church? Click: [Vision Sermons / Messages](#)
- Is there anything I can watch to be inspired? Click: [Grow Conference Main Sessions](#)

NEXTS STEPS:

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- [Learn More About Fasting](#)
- [Share a testimony or story of God working in my life.](#)

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