

The Refreshing Times Dec 2012

Emmanuel God with us.

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.

Matt 1:23

This scripture in Matthew is a quote from Is 7:14. It is not only a fulfilled prophecy, it was a promise of deliverance to king Ahaz of Judah. It relates to a story during the time the land of Israel was divided into two Kingdoms. Judah and Israel At this time Israel and Syria linked forces in an attempt to attack Judah. However, God had other plans. The king of Judah was terrified of this coalition force and trembled at the thought of it. God had assured Judah's king through the prophet Isaiah that there was nothing to fear. He said these concerns are nothing but hot air. He then asks Ahaz the king to ask for a sign for proof of such a deliverance. Ahaz refuses to ask a thing of

The Lord concerned He might tempt God. God in turn declares His own sign. " a virgin shall conceive and bear a child and His name shall be called Emmanuel ". The Hebrew understanding of this was ... "The mighty God is with us". In the New Testament Matt 1:23 speaking of Christ , renders it as "God with us" . We can say the sign will be ..."the mighty God is with us and ready to deliver" This Christmas no matter what we may be dealing with, a loss of a loved one, a loss of a job, a broken friendship or marriage or a financial crises, God is with us and ready to deliver. Let's Say this together.... "The Mighty God is with me and ready to deliver. I will not fear". We need to declare the Christmas story on our lips now and through out the new year. "The mighty God is with us and ready to deliver." We love you and wish God's very best to you now and throughout the new year.

We have been honored to serve you this year as Pastors and look forward to a very rich and prosperous new year in spirit , soul and body.

God Bless you all. Pastors John and Laurie

Upcoming Events

December 16th

Relationship

Sunday

December 23

Christmas Service

Refreshments

follow

December 30th

New Years Service

What is going on? Can scripture give us some insight to current world events. In particular this most recent event in Ct? I believe it can. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine for reproof for instruction in righteousness, so we can be fully equipped for every good work. Our hearts go out to the families and relatives who are affected most by this devilish attack on this community. So many questions are being asked and search continues to find answers. Our heart breaks over the loss of innocent lives , young children in particular. I was deeply touched by the father of a little Girl named Emile. Her face looks like the face of an angel. Her father trying to put pieces together chose to acknowledge her most precious life and personality which will not be forgotten but the fact that she is with her Heavenly Father now. I am sure many stories of heroism will emerge as days go on like that little boy who led several of his class mates right past the deranged killer to the exit door and then to the street to safety. What gave that boy the courage? We are so humbled by the courage of the teacher who laid her life down in an attempt to save the children as she lunged after the killer. Oh God give them grace to heal and strength to go forward.

As we look into the story of Christ's birth more fully we see a massacre occur like the one that took place during the birth of Moses. The pattern suggests a deliverer is about to be born. Before Christ was born king Herod in a mad scramble to secure his throne from the coming messiah seeks to kill Him before he can reach adulthood. In a dream God sends an angel and warns the magi from the east to not tell Herod any more info and warns Joseph and Mary in the same way to go down to Egypt until the mad King is dead. We see this pattern with pharaoh of old. Concerned the children of Israel would eventually outnumber them and then attack them , order the mass killings of young boys. Moses' mom was shrewd enough to hide Moses in the bulrushes and reeds and send him down the river there to be found by Pharaoh's daughter.

In modern times we saw how the systematic extermination of the Jewish race was planed during WWII The allied forces intervened by the Grace of God and the Jewish people were spared though 6 million were killed , men women and children. We see after this horrific event the birth of Israel once again.

We see also in modern times the mass killing of unborn children by pro choice mothers as nothing more than a Satanic device to destroy a race of people. I know there are Christians who have bought into this thinking unknowingly swept up in the philosophy spawned from hell itself. We see this happening because a generation of

Godly men and women are about to be born that will shake nations and deliver millions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How do I know this. The pattern in scripture is clear. Th Devil hates children and wishes to mark them before they mature. It takes a wise parent to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to raise children. It takes courage to hide the children away in the bulrushes of the word of God and prayer and teach them the river of the Holy Spirit's power.

Out of this horrific event in history which is a byproduct of several things, Prayer being removed from school , the removal of God in children's writings and projects. Will come a generation like no other. We must believe this. We must pray. We must let our children express their gratitude to God and Jesus. Take heart out of this horrific event will eventually come a cry , not for gun control but for less control over the children's expression of faith and gratitude towards God. A cry to go back to the basic principle of faith in God in Christ and love for our neighbor to secure brighter future.

Let's do our part as parents , believers and as a church to connect with the coming generation of young people. Those of you that are parents an teachers are on the front lines of defense and offense. You are the seed sowers. You are the watchmen and women on the wall so to speak. You are God's agents of greatness. He or she that rocks the cradle rules the world. It was no mistake that when God decided to bring the messiah into the world He chose a family. It is no mistake that when he decided to raise a deliverer up for Jewish people he made the provision for Moses' own mother to raise him. The call is going out. Who will stand up for the little ones. Who will pray protect and teach. Perhaps you feel then call to children's work as a school teacher, daycare worker, or church school teacher as Jessica Wilson or Joanne Merrihew who served for several years. This is no light assignment. That is why we are waiting for those whom are called and passionate about it. Those of you who are presently teachers , John Cook ,Vanessa Curcio, Jessica Wilson and moms and Dads , we love you and honor you today. You are the present day heroes to our generation And the next. Pastor Laurie had a Devine mandate to be a stay at home mom. I am glad she obeyed. I will always respect her for that. The challenges can be great, but the rewards are great as well.

We must resist the tide of being politically correct. As one teacher in a heroic fashion trying to protect the children in her class urged those children who believed in prayer to pray those who did not to think "happy thoughts". What is this ? Happy thoughts will not do it in a crises like that. Only prayer can save us now. Save the happy thoughts for Christmas and New Years. A birthday party a social event or the playground. Happy thoughts ? We're we going. We are told we do not want to offend

the 6 year old atheists or their parents. Dare we lose our job over this? In no way am I dishonoring this teachers heroic acts to protect her children. I am amazed by it. We must reinstall the fear of God once again I. Our culture. We must respect His power and presence. Emmanuel God is with us !

I think the heart of every man is to be connected with God. We have an increase in courage when we are teamed up with others. Many hands make light work someone once said. Imagine being commissioned to preach teach or live the Christian life without God. How ridiculous. We are co-laborers with Him. The Lord worked with the early church confirming His word with signs following "I will never leave you or forsake you says The Lord". Joshua was told " as I was with Moses I will be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you. He was commanded to be strong and very courageous. Psalm 27 teaches to not fear , what can man do to us . Hebrews 13 teaches we can boldly say The Lord is my helper I will not fear what can man do to me? I will never leave you or forsake you. God promises to be with us. Psalm 139 says "Even if I make my bed in hell you are there." Psalm 23 says " Yes though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for you are with me". Knowing God is with us instills courage , faith and fearlessness. Of course a more pointed question is are we with God. Are we cooperating with His will. Are we pliable to his plans and delighting in Him? Knowing He is with us bolsters our confidence. Let's not mistake the truth though. He will confirm His Word and His Word Alone As we line up with His Word

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