

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Message 1 of 4 in the series: "Something to Sing About"

"O come, O come, **Immanuel**, and **ransom** captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come **Thou Branch of Jesse** free, Thine own from **Satan's tyranny**; From the depths of hell Thy people save, and give them victory over the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, **Thou Dayspring**, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here; Come drive away the clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come **Thou Key of David** come, and open wide our heavenly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel **shall come to thee**, O Israel."

A. God NEVER wants us to mindlessly sing praises to Him.

"As you enter the house of God, keep your ears open and your mouth shut. It is evil to make mindless offerings to God." Ecclesiastes 5:1 (NLT)

B. Jesus' birth really is something to sing about!

1. Jesus is "Emmanuel" which means "God with us."

"...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. 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. 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. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: '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."**' When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus." Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT) (*Isaiah 7:14*)

Life Application: We don't need to live in lonely exile from God. Jesus became one of us so we can have a personal relationship with God. "He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.** They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. So the Word became human and made his home among us." John 1:10-14a (NLT)

2. Jesus paid the ransom to set us free from the penalty of sin.

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood." Romans 3:23-25a (NLT)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and **to give his life as a ransom** for many." Mark 10:45 (NLT)

3. We are no longer slaves to Satan.

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he **break the power of the devil**, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he **set free** all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying." Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

"You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. **All of us used to live that way**, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead." Ephesians 2:2-5a (NLT)

4. Jesus is the Branch of Jesse. We can trust God to keep His promises.

“Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot—yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. 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. He will delight in obeying the Lord... 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. He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.” Isaiah 11:1-5 (NLT)

“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.** And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!” Luke 1:31-33 (NLT) (*2 Samuel 7*)

5. Jesus is the Dayspring. We don’t have to walk in darkness anymore.

“And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins. Because of God’s tender mercy, the morning light (Dayspring) from heaven is about to break upon us, **to give light** to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and **to guide us to the path of peace.**”

Luke 1:76-79 (NLT)

“I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” John 8:12 (NLT)

6. Jesus has the Key of David. He is the only way to heaven.

“...This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has **the key of David**. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open.” Revelation 3:7 (NLT)

“I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And **I hold the keys of death and the grave.**” Revelation 1:17b-18 (NLT)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6 (NLT)

7. Rejoice! Immanuel has come to us.

“God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” 1 John 4:9-10 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

Read the lyrics to O Come, O Come Immanuel, and then discuss the following questions:

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1. What’s your favorite Christmas carol? What makes it special to you?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 and Matthew 6:7-8. Why is it wrong to sing or pray mindlessly when we worship God? How do we keep ourselves from doing this?
3. What is the significance of Jesus being called “Immanuel”? (See Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 7:14, John 1:10-14)

4. Read Mark 10:45, 1 Timothy 2:6, and Romans 3:23-25. What sort of “ransom” did Jesus pay? Why is this necessary?
5. How have you experienced Jesus as a “Dayspring” (sunrise) in your life? (To what areas has he brought light where there used to be darkness?) (See Luke 1:76-79, John 8:12)
6. What keys do you carry with you? What do they grant you access to? Does it matter that Jesus has the Key of David? (Revelation 1:17-18 & 3:7, John 14:6)
7. Why is it important that Immanuel came to us? (1 John 4:9-10)