

GOD WITH US

God with us

1

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **1:23** 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.

Explain:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)

2. John 14:16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you” (John: 14:16-17). God exists with us in a whole new way after his death and resurrection.

Explain: In this passage, Jesus promises that we will experience God in an unprecedented way. When he ascends into heaven and can no longer physically be with the disciples, the Holy Spirit comes and rests on each of them (taking on the appearance of tongues of fire). The Holy Spirit dwells within them and stays with them forever. What a beautiful reminder! God does not abandon us to navigate life on our own. Instead, the Holy Spirit guides, comforts, and intercedes for us.

3

Jeremiah 31.1 At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Explain: God doesn't leave his people in the lurch in the Old Testament. He knew they had a problem with sin that no amount of good deeds could ever rectify. So he makes this promise. That he will find a way to be with us.

We also need to keep in mind the context of Jeremiah. This prophet existed during a difficult time in Israel's history. Babylon had conquered them and taken its people into captivity. Nevertheless, Jeremiah leaves this with this hope and promise of a new covenant with God, to be fulfilled 500 years later.

4

Matthew 28.20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Explain must've felt some trepidation when he ascended into heaven. Jesus, who had walked by their side for three years, had vanished. Nevertheless, this promise shows that Jesus never left. God would still be with them through the role of the Holy Spirit. God never abandons us.

5

1 Corinthians 6.19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 6.20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Explain:

thanks to the New Covenant. The Holy Spirit dwells within us, instead of us having to approach the Holy of Holies.

How wonderful that God chooses to reside within us! That we can boldly approach him and feel his presence. Something that many heroes of the faith in [Hebrews 11](#) could only hope to dream of.

6. [Psalm 139:7](#)

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7). We cannot escape God. To those who love God, this can come as a comfort and reassurance. To those who want to flee from God or his plan, like Jonah, this may feel like a bit of a warning.

Explain:

One thing I found to be interesting in my philosophy minor was that every philosopher pointed to the Gospel, whether they intended to or not. Plato, Kant, Aristotle, etc. all had Gospel threads woven into their messages. We cannot escape God physically, mentally, or spiritually.

7. Ephesians 2:18 and 3:11-12

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father ... This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him” (Eph. 2:18, 3:11-12).

Explain:

Think about the profound nature of this verse. We have access to the Father. We can often take this for granted in our prayer lives until we realize what the High Priest had to go through the one day a year he could approach the Holy of Holies. They had to attach bells to him in case he stopped moving (indicating he'd died in the presence of God). Praise the Lord that he found a way for us to have access to him and an ability to approach him.

8. Psalm 145:18

“The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth” (Psalm 145:18). Many Christians can fear that God will leave them. I know I have certainly felt that way many times in my life.

Explain:

But this verse reminds us that God is near to those who call on him. Even during our darkest moments, when we fear that God has left us to the wolves, we can know that it is not within God's character to desert us. Therefore, even when we cannot feel him, he is there.

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And God with us

Called us for Prayer

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