

~ THE WORDS OF CHRISTMAS ~

#PREPARATION - #ANTICIPATION - #REVELATION

#INCARNATION - #CELEBRATION

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' <sup>22</sup>All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: <sup>23</sup>'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.' <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife."

– Matthew 1:18-24

THE INCARNATION INVOLVES BOTH

• MIRACLE

• MYSTERY

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

– Colossians 2:9

<sup>5</sup>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup>Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup>Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." – Philippians 2:5-8

THE MIRACLE AND THE MYSTERY OF THE #INCARNATION

<sup>14</sup>So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." – John 1:14

(1) Jesus was fully GOD = 100%

"...he was God..." – Philippians 2:6

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God." – Colossians 1:15

(2) Jesus was fully HUMAN = 100%

"...he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being." – Philippians 2:6-7

- Self-limited in TIME, SPACE, KNOWLEDGE, and POWER
- Became MORTAL and subject to TEMPTATION

"...he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin." – Hebrews 4:15

AT THE HEART OF INCARNATION IS

- Total SELF-SACRIFICE
- Total SELF-GIVING
- Becoming a SERVANT of others
- For the sake of their REDEMPTION

THE CALL OF THE INCARNATION

- To LIVE as Christ
- To LOVE as Christ

"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had... <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." – Philippians 2:5, 8

"Humility is the posture of a strong person who steps down to serve others." Dr. Ben Witherington