

A wooden manger filled with straw, containing several wrapped gifts with red ribbons. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft glow emanating from the gifts. The text "THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS" is written across the front of the manger in a gold, serif font.

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

God's Presence

A manger scene featuring a dark wooden manger filled with straw. Inside the manger, several wrapped gifts in light-colored paper with red ribbons are arranged. The background is a soft, hazy light. The text "God's Presence" is at the top, and "THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS" is on the front of the manger.

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS



With us

Embracing the Gift of God's Presence

Pastor Pablo Morales



HAVE YOU EVER FELT
ABANDONED
BY GOD?



King Ahaz

735-720 BC

(Isaiah 7)



The bulla (clay seal impression) of King Ahaz. Photo: The Madain Project



ISAIAH 7

² ... so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken,
as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.



ISAIAH 7

⁴ Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid.
...⁹ If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.’”



ISAIAH 7

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel.



ISAIAH 7

¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough
to reject the wrong and choose the right,
¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough
to reject the wrong and choose the right,
the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.



ISAIAH 8

...¹⁰ Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;
propose your plan, but it will not stand,
for God is with us.



עַמְנוּנוּ אֵל:



EL

IMMANU

אלוהים
עמנו

GOD

WITH US



GOD WITH US

EMMANU-EL





Joseph

(Matthew 1)

MATTHEW 1

²⁰ But after he had considered this,
an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife,
because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.”



MATTHEW 1

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).



עִמָּנוּ אֱלֹהִים:

GOD WITH US



Ἰησοῦς

SALVATION



Jesus

SALVATION



JOHN 1

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.



JOHN 1

¹² Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.



GOD WITH US

עִמָּנוּ יְיָ:



Q1:

What is the gift
of God's Presence?



God
with
Us



God
with
Us

Us
with
God



JOHN 14

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God; believe also in me.

² My Father’s house has many rooms;
if that were not so,
would I have told you that I am going there
to prepare a place for you?



JOHN 14

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take you to be with me
that you also may be where I am.



God
with
Us

Us
with
God



Q2:

What keeps us
from experiencing
God's Presence?





MISTAKE

Believing
that God is
indifferent
to our pain.



Why didn't you do
anything about it?

MATTHEW 26

³⁸ Then he said to them,

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.
Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed,
“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.
Yet not as I will, but as you will.”



MATTHEW 27

⁴⁵ From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

⁴⁶ About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

(which means

“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”).



REVELATION 21

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,
and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people,
and God himself will be with them and be their God.

⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain,
for the old order of things has passed away.”



REVELATION 21

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said,
“I am making everything new!”

Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.



God
with
Us

Us
with
God



Q3:

What can we do
to experience
God's presence?





STEPS TO TAKE

Invite Jesus
into your pain.



STEPS TO TAKE

Invite Jesus
into your life.



With us

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