

# STUDY GUIDE

## LYRICS OF CHRISTMAS 12.06.2015

### [set up]

What are a couple of your favorite and least favorite Christmas songs? Why?

Which Christmas songs help you personally prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Christ?

### [digging deeper]

We kicked off our “Lyrics of Christmas” series this last week, looking at a few of the well known Christmas songs that have a strong lyrical connect to Advent... the birth of the Savior! This week was O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Before continuing, listen to and/or sing the song (here’s a link or select your own version).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvZmFAimeWc>

The Biblical passage that inspired this song is Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (ESV).

About 700 years later, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the New Testament in Matthew 1:18-25. Read thru these verses. Why is this significant to all of mankind?

Mary was told to name her son Jesus, so why is it not a contradiction that Scripture also says His name will be Emmanuel?

What does “Emmanuel” mean and why was that important to ancient Israel? Why is it important to us?

How is the message of “Emmanuel” both a past fulfillment and a future event?

#### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty pow'r to save;  
Bring them in vict'ry through the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be yourself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

Emmanuel is one of the Old Testament Messianic names/titles mentioned in the song O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Place the letter of the other names from the song lyrics next to the verses that correlate:

A-Rod of Jesse (lineage)

B-Key of David (lineage)

C-Day Spring (bringer of light)

D-Desire of Nation (treasured. Cannot be shaken)

\_\_\_ Luke 1:78, 79

\_\_\_ Is. 11:1

\_\_\_ Heb. 12:6

\_\_\_ Is. 22:22

\_\_\_ Rev. 22:16

\_\_\_ Rom. 15:12

\_\_\_ Mal. 4:2

## **[living it out]**

The twofold idea of Emmanuel, God with us, is this:

- (1) The praise and celebration that Christ has come – His first advent. He is with us now.
- (2) The hope and longing for the second coming/advent of Christ where He will destroy sin and be with us in person forever. This understanding and belief gives us comfort in our current chaos and conflicts just as it brought comfort to ancient Israel in their chaos and comfort as they waited for the first advent.

What chaos or conflict are you dealing with right now that you can say “Emmanuel” to? What tangible way can you remind yourself that as a follower of Jesus, He is with you, He is in you, and He is for you (bookmark, alert in phone, post it note on mirror or in car, etc.)?

What can/will you do to celebrate that “God is with us” during this season especially? What tangible action can you take during this Advent season to bring the message of “Emmanuel” to your home, work place, or relationships?

Here’s a daily advent reading guide that can help you focus over the next week on the coming of Emmanuel as well.

<http://document.desiringgod.org/the-dawning-of-indestructible-joy-en.pdf?1446648252>

Close in prayer thanking God that He is with us, asking for help to be reminded in your chaos or conflict that He is with you, and asking for Him to use you to help others know this good news as well. If time allows, you can sing this song one more time.