

- B. *God-with-us* means “fear not” as we carry out the mission.
- i. Acts 18:9-10
 - ii. Emmanuel 2.0 in a world that is still longing for Emmanuel.
 - iii. But it is a world in which God is acting through His people to answer the laments of others!

C. We also long for Emmanuel 3.0 (2 Peter 3:8-13)

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
Use these questions to help deepen your thinking about these things and find ways to put the gospel into action in your life.*

- How does the lament of Habakkuk 1:2-4 fit as a description of the longing that Paul says all of creation longs for in Romans 8:18-25?
- Why might it be important for us to pause and consider the waiting that occurred leading up to the first coming of Christ?
- Can you think of some ways that the OT teaches us what the world is like when humans are left to their own devices, or when they do things their way?
- What are some of the glimmers of hope in the human condition in the OT?
- How might “God with us” in Jesus be surprising? What did Jesus do in His first coming?
- How has Jesus’ first coming and return to the Father made our current time of waiting different than the OT time of waiting?
- How does our hope for the consummation as explained in 2 Peter 3:8-13 promise a solution to the human problem described in Genesis 6:11-13?

Longing for Emmanuel

Jerry Cisar — December 8, 2019

Text: Habakkuk 1:2-4

Introduction

Andre Henry, speaking about Advent, says, “the entire Christian story is based on that kind of rhythm: from despair to hope, darkness to light, chaos to order, captivity to freedom, mourning to dancing....
“Advent is the season where we pay attention to our sickness, sadness and suffering, remembering that God is also paying attention to the same. It is the time for acknowledging our deep longing for the world to be made right and the joy of Christmas emerges from that season of groaning—from the fact that God has met us exactly where we are, as we are.”

I. The World Longing for Emmanuel

- A. The only shortcut solution for brokenness and injustice in the world is to wipe out humanity (Gen. 6:11-13).
- B. Judges
 - i. The need for a deliverer (Matthew 1:18).

ii. Human deliverers will never do. We need Emmanuel.

C. The book of Ruth gives us a light in the midst of darkness.

D. Samuel & Kings

II. The World of Emmanuel

A. Mary's Song (Luke 1.46-48a, 51-55)

i. Hannah's Song (1 Sam. 2:1, 4-8)

ii. As Hannah's and Mary's prayer suggests, when Jesus came, God was turning the world upside down.

B. When God's answer came on that first Christmas, He didn't immediately fix the world.

i. Jesus is God's rescue plan for the world. He is God with us.

a) The rescue plan does not fix all the evil in the world.

b) Rather, the rescue plan reveals that God will work in the world through those who follow Jesus to the cross.

ii. Jesus didn't set everything right in the world but demonstrated *how* God will set everything right and created a people through whom that process would continue until the day when He brings it to His glorious completion!

a) God with us, means God acting in the world. In Jesus God is acting in the world.

b) He begins by turning our view of how God works in the world upside down! Then through His actions in Jesus and in us, He will change the world.

III. The World of Emmanuel 2.0

A. The world is longing for Emmanuel once again, but there is a difference.

i. Matthew 28:20

ii. John 14:23

a) The world today is still longing for Emmanuel (Acts 17), and God has sent us to them.

b) As we consider Advent, let's remember not only our own waiting, but the waiting of those who haven't experienced the grace we have.