**Daily Prayer & Encouragement - Wednesday 16th December** Margaret Fromow

In the Bible, there are 365 promises – one for each day of the year.

At this time, we are in Advent – a most glorious season of the year, when we remember that Jesus came to us, leaving heaven’s glory to dwell among us. He became Immanuel, God with us. Isaiah 7 verse 14 says, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a Son, and call Him Immanuel”. Matthew 1 verse 22 – “the virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means God with us”.

These verses speak of Jesus’ coming to be with us and share our humanity.

I recall before Christmas 1990, both my parents died within 44 hours of each other. I looked up at the Christmas tree and said, “Lord, why this? It is Christmas.” God immediately answered me by saying, “If I could not be with you in your sorrow, then I could not be Immanuel”. That word to me was so incredibly powerful, that I never looked back. I shared it with so many people, and still do. God has never left me. Hebrews 13 verse 5 says, “For He has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you”. This is my testimony.

This is the whole meaning of Christmas – that Jesus became flesh as a little baby, was born as one of us, and died on the cross to save us from our sins. If we turn to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us, and ask Him into our lives, He will come in. Then we will be with Him in heaven when we die. My parents are there with Jesus.

When Jesus went back into heaven, He did not leave us comfortless, but sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter, to be with us always. John 14 verse 26

AS Jesus left the disciples on the Mount of Olives, before He ascended into heaven, He said “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end.” Matthew 28 verse 20.

Loving Heavenly Father, we thank you at this season of Christmas, that Jesus came as a little baby, God’s greatest gift to us. May each of us welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives to be our Saviour. We thank you for your amazing, loving plan of salvation for the whole world, at such a cost that Jesus suffered in our place. God had this plan for the world since eternity, that we should live with Him in heaven, because He loves us so much.

Immanuel, O Immanuel

Bowed in awe I worship at your feet

And sing Immanuel

God is with us

Sharing my humanness, my shame

Feeling my weaknesses, my pain

Taking the punishment, the blame

Immanuel

Immanuel, O Immanuel

Bowed in awe I worship at your feet

And sing Immanuel

God is with us

Sharing my humanness, my shame

Feeling my weaknesses, my pain

Taking the punishment, the blame

Immanuel

And now my words cannot explain

All that my heart cannot contain

How great are the glories of your name

Immanuel

(by Graham Kendrick)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QON384KtMrA>