

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 9043 • KNOXVILLE, TN 37940

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Emmanuel Has Come

Dear Friend,

To begin this letter, I would like to draw your attention to a statement made to King Nebuchadnezzar by an ungodly Chaldean whom he had ordered to make known the king's dream. The king had had a dream which troubled him so much he could not sleep, but was unable to remember what it was. So, he charged his magicians, astrologers, and Chaldeans with the task of telling him what he had dreamed, as well as, its interpretation. Their lives depended on their success.

The Chaldeans began to protest such a demand made by the king. They declared that if the king would only tell them the dream they could easily give him the interpretation. They decried that no one could do what he was asking of them. It turned out that only one person could, in fact, recount the king's dream and give the interpretation; Daniel. But, what I want you to pay close attention to is the Chaldean's words at the end of the following verse. (Daniel 2:11)

“And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh”.

Think about what this ungodly man is saying, because his words explain the difference between what we have as born again children of God and all world religions. Look at those words; “***whose dwelling is not with flesh***”. The man-made religions of the world with their idols and altars of worship all celebrate gods who are out there somewhere beyond human contact. In their minds their gods are far removed from the normal experiences of this world and they themselves are miniscule in the sight of their overlords. This singular point is what differentiates all world religions with Christianity, which is not a religion but a family, whose Father just happens to be God Himself.

The Chaldean was saying that the gods they served would not lower themselves to actually co-mingle with human flesh. This is the picture the devil has worked so hard to paint in the minds of humans for as long as there have been humans.

The devil wants humans to believe that they are worthless beings in the sight of God and that God would never lower Himself to man's level for any reason. This is because the devil hates man and envies man's place in God's family. Those who accept satan's lies gravitate towards erecting gods whom they can worship as merciless overlords because they cannot see themselves worthy of having the One True and Living God love them and want to share in their lives.

Even when God in His mercy reached out to man, via the giving of the Law of Moses, man took the Law and made it something that it was not. Instead of recognizing the real purpose of the Law, which was to show Israel they were spiritually dead, Israel supposed that by upholding all the requirements of the Law **they made themselves** righteous. They in effect **made a religion** out of God's efforts to have a relationship with them. Here's how Jesus related this point to the religious leaders of his day. (John 5:39)

“Search the scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

Instead of Israel understanding how the hand of God was reaching out to save them, first by the Law and ultimately through His Son, Jesus, they created a religion of works. Certainly, satan helped them every chance he could to see themselves unworthy of God's saving grace. So long as mankind sees themselves as worthless beings working to gain a merciless God's acceptance, they will never enjoy the place that Jesus has created for man in His family. (John 14:2)

“In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you, I go to prepare a place for you.”

Without going into a lot of detail here and straying away from the point, suffice it to say that the place Jesus went to prepare for us was **a place in God's family**. For example, consider the place created by the birth of a baby into a family. Before its conception, a family might consist of a father, mother, and a son. It isn't until conception occurs, and ultimately birth, that a unique “place” is created in this family, increasing its size by at least one.

After the first Adam's sin, his place in God's family no longer existed. It wasn't until the second man, the Last Adam, Jesus, became the first born from the dead that a place in God's family for man again existed. (I Corinthians 15:45,47)

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” (vs. 47) ***“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.”***

Our God not only made a place for us to join Him in His family, **but He Himself came to this earth and became one with us** in order to make our entry into His family possible. In other words, we do not serve a God who puts up with us or who separates Himself from us because we are merely ants in His sight. We serve the One True God who loves each and every one of us so much that He was willing to come to this earth and join us in human flesh in order to set us free from sin and death and give us entrance into His family. That is the true picture of the God who loves us.

Our heavenly Father loves us so much that He was willing to personally pay the price for us to be set free from spiritual death so that we could once again enjoy fellowship with Him and He with us. It was God’s desire **to be with us** that was the catalyst for Jesus coming into this world. (Matthew 1:22-23)

“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

The Chaldean who said that the god he served was not a god that dwelled with flesh was not serving the One, True and Living God. Our God has not only come to this earth clothed in human flesh, but He willingly experienced all the challenges of this world so that He could be our advocate before the Father. (Hebrews 2:17)

“Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

There are no false gods that started out in heaven, but who loved mankind so much that they willing left heaven to be born in a human body becoming just like their own creation. Only the One True God loves man that much. But, it doesn’t stop there, Jesus not only came here as one of us, He was also willing to suffer the same temptations as we suffer so that He could help us when we suffer temptation. (Hebrews 2:18)

“For in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succor (help) **them that are tempted.**”

What world religion celebrates a god who was willing to suffer for humans so that it could relate to their suffering? None!

If you have ever questioned the love your heavenly Father has for you, consider what He was willing to do in order to be able to redeem you. First He joined Himself in an everlasting covenant with a man named Abraham. Then, He appeared to Moses on top of Mount Sinai forty days and forty nights delivering His law to the people of Israel. Afterwards, when Moses returned to the people his face glowed from being in God's presence. (Exodus 34:29, 33)

“And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of Testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. (33) And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.”

Think about this; Moses' face glowed because of being in the presence of God for 40 days. They had to cover his face because the people could not stand to be in his presence. The point I'm wanting to make here is that no matter how much God wanted to be with mankind, God's glory and man's spiritual death were as 'like poles of a magnet.

God's love for man compelled Him to take an unprecedented step and send His Son, Jesus, into this world to be clothed in human flesh. The false gods of the Chaldeans did not dwell with flesh because they were not the One True God. Our God joined us and in doing so became Emmanuel, **God with us**. The same God who spent 40 days with Moses on Mount Sinai and left Moses' face aglow with His glory, chose to be made in the likeness of men in order to redeem man. (Philippians 2:7)

“But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”

People could touch God, walk alongside God, talk with God and their faces wouldn't glow like Moses. How was that? Emmanuel, God with us, had joined humanity by clothing Himself in human flesh in order to redeem humanity and create a new place for man in God's family. Only one time during the life of Jesus do we see a glimpse of His glory and majesty, which was during His time on the mount of transfiguration. (Matthew 17:2)

“And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light.”

The bottom line is this; God loves each and every one of us so much that He willing became like His own creation in order to free us from the bondage of sin and death. There is no other god like our God. The false gods celebrated by ignorant souls are always out there somewhere far removed from humanity. Our God, the One True and Living God, joined us to set us free and to make His home **in us**. (John 17:23)

“I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved Me.”

Think of it, God the Father loves us as much as He loves Jesus. That being the case, refuse to settle for living a mediocre life, under the thumb of the devil, because God Himself loves you. Emmanuel has come and once we receive Him as our Lord He is no farther away from us than our breath. Praise God!

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins