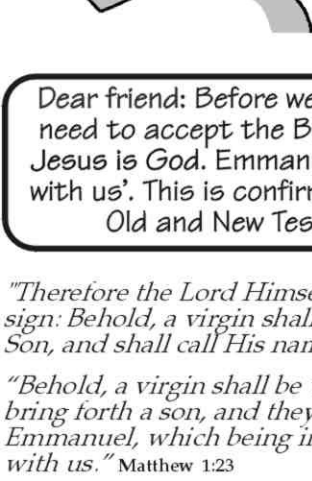


Emmanuel: God with us

Christ changed everything

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus, called Emmanuel (meaning *God with us*), changed the world. In that moment when 'the Word became flesh', the words of the Old Testament prophets unfolded into the New Testament, as a new Covenant had just been born. Jesus, our Emmanuel, now provided a way to ensure that sin and death, on our confession of faith, couldn't win, and the new-born Christian wouldn't feel so painfully alone, but would have the promise of the Heavenly Life.

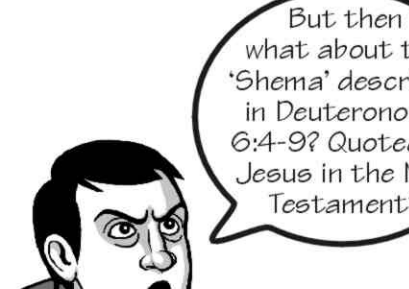
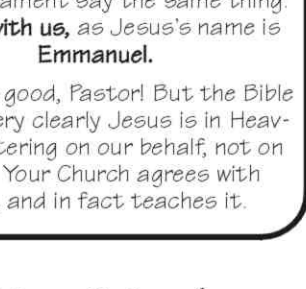


Pastor, please explain! I see in many churches a cloth hangs from the pulpit with the words 'Emmanuel - God with us'. I understand Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, but surely He's not there now? So how do you explain 'God with us'? I mean really, He was on earth for only 33 years! Then how can He still be with us?

Dear friend: Before we go further, we need to accept the Bible truth that Jesus is God. Emmanuel means 'God with us'. This is confirmed in both the Old and New Testaments.

"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel". Isaiah 7:14

"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." Matthew 1:23



OK, I've got it! Jesus is God! Guess I should've known that anyway, since those Bible quotes say so. It's also obvious because Isaiah from the Old Testament and Matthew from the New Testament say the same thing: **God is with us**, as Jesus's name is Emmanuel.

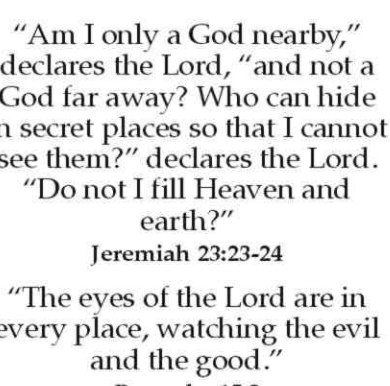
So far so good, Pastor! But the Bible states very clearly Jesus is in Heaven ministering on our behalf, not on earth. Your Church agrees with that, and in fact teaches it.

But then what about the 'Shema' described in Deuteronomy 6:4-9? Quoted by Jesus in the New Testament?

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD"
 (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Jesus replied, **"This is the most important: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One'."**
 (Mark 12:29)

Pastor, you'll probably understand that I am a little confused. Jesus came to earth and He is God, we've established that point. Yet, as the Bible confirms, Jesus is now in Heaven with God! Even so, many churches use the term 'Emmanuel God with us' as a banner on the pulpit, or even as a name for the church. But didn't Jesus go to heaven on or about AD 33?

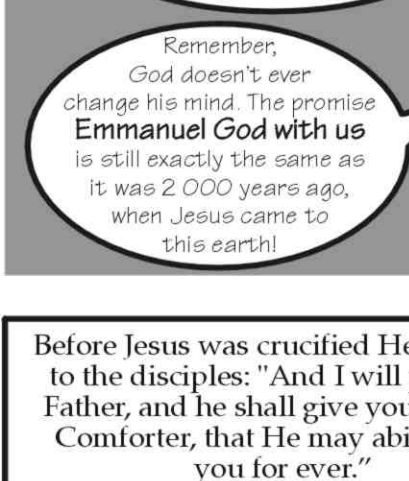
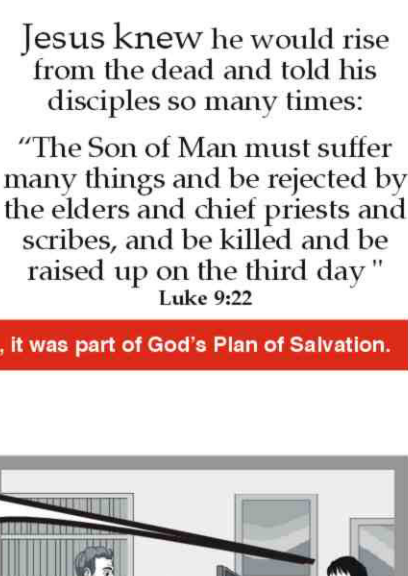


Read what the prophet Jeremiah has to say in chapter 23 about God's Omnipresence. Or Proverbs 15! There are many texts; check for yourself!

"Am I only a God nearby," declares the Lord, "and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill Heaven and earth?"
 Jeremiah 23:23-24

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good."
 Proverbs 15:3

But, Pastor, I still challenge the statement of Emmanuel God with us. The Bible says clearly: **The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us!** That text refers to Jesus; we agree Jesus is God... but He is not here.



Jesus knew he would rise from the dead and told his disciples so many times: "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day"
 Luke 9:22

The resurrection of Jesus was no surprise, it was part of God's Plan of Salvation.

Please explain that more clearly, Pastor. You're getting a bit ahead of me!



Remember, God doesn't ever change his mind. The promise **Emmanuel God with us** is still exactly the same as it was 2 000 years ago, when Jesus came to this earth!

Before Jesus was crucified He said this to the disciples: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."
 Another in the Greek original is *allos*, which literally translated means *another of the same kind*.



The Comforter is the Holy Spirit. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

So, if I understand you correctly, Jesus sent another Person that is also: **God with us!** But if that is so, then God is all over - literally everywhere!
'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the Lord.
 Jeremiah 23 (NIV)
 Well, that's what the Bible says!

So now we have **three Gods!**
 This is getting a bit heavy for my little mind to grasp

"Direct me in the path of your Commandments, for there I find delight."
 Psalm: 119:35

Do not ask God to confirm your opinion; ask Him to make your opinion conform to His Truth. (Charles Spurgeon)

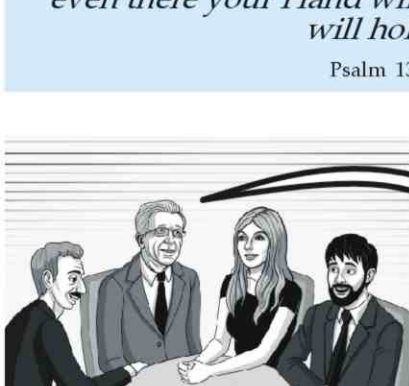
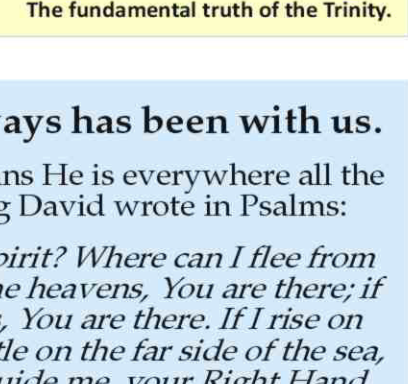
Do you really mean **THREE Gods?** So where is that in the Bible?

The Trinity is not taught in the Bible, but is referred to throughout Scripture. The post-biblical Christians developed the doctrine to correctly explain all the Biblical data of the Trinity.



No, not three Gods!
 Remember the *Shema* I quoted earlier:
"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord."
 (Deut 6:4 KJV.)
 The Christian doctrine holds that God is one God, but three co-eternal and co-substantial Persons. The Three Persons are distinct, yet are **one substance, essence or nature**.
 Matt 28:19 is very clear: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of **the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**"

According to Christian doctrine, each Person in the Godhead is truly God, since God is of one essence, but each Person has a unique role to play in redemptive history and beyond. When the apostle Paul says that in Christ all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, he is saying that Christ is of *one essence* with the Father and the Spirit.



Pastor, thank you for this Bible truth, **Emmanuel God with us**. Jesus sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, meaning God, is with us all the time. I feel so encouraged!
Now I see more wonderful truths on www.bibleanswers.co.za.
 This message really motivates me to read the Bible all over again!

The object of this tract is to be fair and truthful. When reading the Bible in its entirety, the believer will discover the truth of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
How do you resolve issues? Plain and simple: use the Bible to explain the Bible, then you will never make a mistake, or fall into misunderstanding!



The fundamental truth of the Trinity.

In truth, God is and always has been with us.
 He is omnipresent, which means He is everywhere all the time. Speaking of God, King David wrote in Psalms:
"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your Presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your Hand will guide me, your Right Hand will hold me fast."
 Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)



We trust that you have been blessed by this Bible truth! Because of Jesus, **Emmanuel**, we never have to be alone. We never have to wonder if our efforts are enough!
 In listening to and doing his Will we can simply rest, knowing He is with us, in us, loves us, and will never leave us

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