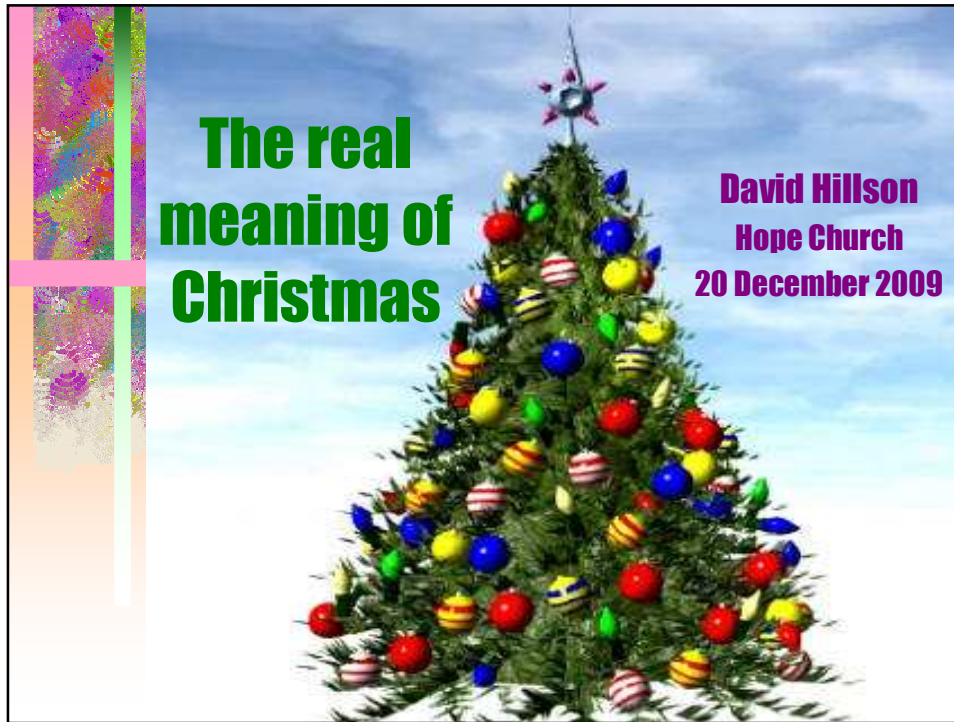


THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

DAVID HILLSON, HOPE CHURCH, 20 DECEMBER 2009



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The real meaning of **CHRISTMAS**

- **“CHRIST ...”**
 - Messiah (?)
 - Anointed one (?)
 - **King**
- **“... MAS”**
 - Mass (?)
 - Festival (?)
 - **Celebration**



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATES THE KING

3

Who is this King?

- **The wise men knew (Matthew 2:1-12)**
 - “Where is he who has been born **king of the Jews ?**”
 - “From you Bethlehem shall come a **ruler...**”
 - They saw the child with Mary his mother and they **fell down and worshipped him**
 - **Royal gifts:**
 - Gold
 - Frankincense
 - Myrrh



4

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Who is this King?

- **Gabriel: “ You shall call him **Jesus** ” (Luke 1:32)**
- **An angel: “ To you is born this day in the city of David a saviour who is **Christ the Lord** ” (Luke 2:11)**
- **Joseph was the husband of Mary, of whom **Jesus** was born, who is called **Christ** (Matthew 1:16)**

Jesus is the King (Christ) !



5

Who is this King?

- **Another title for King Jesus**
- **Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Emmanuel**.**
- **Matthew 1:18-23 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ happened ... The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Emmanuel** ...**

... which means “ God with us ” **X**

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Emmanuel = עִמָּנוּאֵל

- **Three Hebrew words:**

עִם EM = **WITH**

אֲנֵנו ANU = **US**

אֵל EL = **GOD**

- **EMMANUEL = WITH-US-GOD**
- **Emphasis is on WITH**



7

“With” – God’s central promise

- He will be **with you**, he will not fail you or forsake you, do not fear or be dismayed (Deuteronomy 31:8, Hebrews 13:5)
- Be strong, take courage, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is **with you** wherever you go (Joshua 1:5-9)
- Jesus: “I am **with you** to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20)
- Behold the home of God is **with men**. He will live **with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be **with them** (Revelation 21:3)

At Christmas, God became man, with us in a new way

8

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The real meaning of CHRISTMAS

Celebration of the King (Christ) ...

... Jesus ...

... the With-Us-God (Emmanuel)

Let's include Jesus this Christmas:

CHRIST

EMMANUEL

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**We all want lots of
PRESENCE at Christmas!!!**

[That's what it's all about !!]

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