

Jesus' Name Means: God Saves

Christmas Eve Meditation

Meditation Text: Matthew 1:18-25



¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

Nothing is left to chance in the birth of the Son of God. Everything happens exactly according to God's plan. That's why angels repeatedly come into the world at important times so that they can explain everything to the people. Just as God sent the shepherds and wisemen so that they would find Jesus. Even the name Jesus is no accident. "Jesus" means "God saves." Everything that Jesus is comes together in the name, Jesus: First God, who has been there since the beginning and will be there forever. And second, that this God saves through Jesus. Jesus was supposed to save the world. That's why Jesus means "God saves." Through His name, He wants to show us what it's all about. Jesus wouldn't only save mankind. He Himself is our salvation! His name is more than a symbol. His name is His identity. It describes His character, His position, His mission, and His worth – everyone who heard His name should know: This is the Savior of the world! That's why it is so important that Jesus always means these two things for us: First God with us. And second: God saves us... And this Jesus has promised us that He personally will be with us until the end of the world. His person is entirely with us! His blood, that He sheds for us, unites us with God. The name that was spoken over us at our Baptism is also that direct connection with God. And when I stand before God one day, then I don't want to know anything other than only Jesus. His name should be written largely on and in me. Amen.