

Week 1: O Come, Come Emmanuel

Opening.

With Christmas around the corner, let's dig deep into the theology of the season and some of our favorite Christmas carols—and learn about messianic prophecies, the nature of Christ, the gift of salvation, the power of surrender and the greatest story ever told. Christmas is answered promises, realized dreams, and refreshed hope which are imbedded in the carols. Let's explore the songs born from our joy that Christ has entered the world.

The word carol originally means “to dance in the ring.” In the ancient times, people's form of entertainment were story telling and singing. Back in the day, people would gather around to sing and dance to songs that tell stories and Bible events. Christmas carols are songs that tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

This week, we look into the carol, “O Come O Come Emmanuel.” The original lyrics were written in Latin in the 1700s, but the tune comes from the 11th century. This carol speaks of Israel's hope and desire for the coming of the Messiah. It is based on the Messianic prophecies in the old testament, and the ancient Jewish prayer written by a man named Rambam which goes: *“I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and, though he tarry, I will wait daily for His coming.”*

Look within.

- There are many prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament. Can two or three in the group each give an example?
- What verse in the Bible is considered the first Messianic prophecy?
- One of the Messianic prophecies is Isaiah chapter 40. Read the entire chapter.
- Why does Israel need a Messiah? Is the Messiah just for Israel or the whole world?
- What will the Messiah do when He comes? Read Isaiah 61:1, Isaiah 53:1-6.

Share your insight.

- What does the name *Emmanuel* mean? Why is it one of the titles of the Messiah?
- In stanza 1 of the song, it says we are captives and exiled in need of redemption, what is spiritual meaning of captivity and exile mean (read 1 Peter 1:18-19, Titus 2:11-14).
- In stanza 2, the Messiah is referred to as “*Rod of Jesse*.” Who was Jesse and why must the Messiah come from his lineage? (Read Ruth 4:22, Matthew 1:5, Isaiah 11:10, Isaiah 9:6-7)
- In stanza 3, Jesus is referred to as the *Dayspring*. Read Luke 1:78 in the New King James version. Why is Jesus called the “dayspring from on high”? Read John 1:4-5, Colossians 1:13)
- In the final stanza, it tells us that Messiah's real role is to be the path and open the doors of heaven. What Bible verses can you think of that reminds you of Jesus' role in salvation?
- The antiphon or chorus says, “Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee...” What does this mean for you?

Spend time to pray.

- What areas in your life do you need the light of Jesus in? Pray for those areas.



MOSAIC CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERMON SERIES

The Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*