

Jesus Was Named Twice Before His Birth

The angel told Joseph, 'You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.'

MATTHEW 1:21

Written by Bill Perkins

Centuries before Christmas,
King Ahaz trembled.
Two nations pressed his gates,
120,000 of his soldiers already fallen,
Jerusalem under siege.

God sent Isaiah—
not with troop strength,
but covenant strength.
The Davidic line would stand.
The throne would not be erased.

The sign was strange yet sure:
a virgin's child,
named Immanuel—God with us.
Before that child grew,
the kings Ahaz feared would fall.
Near term deliverance,
long term promise preserved.

Seven hundred years later,
Matthew wrote of the greater fulfillment:
the child born to Mary
was not only a sign,
but God Himself in our midst.
Immanuel—presence.

Then the second name came:
"You shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people
from their sins."
Jesus—mission.

Two names, one Child.

Immanuel—He is with us.

Jesus—He saves us.

The manger declares presence,

the cross declares rescue.

Together: He came near to save.

At Christmas I marvel:

the God who steadied a terrified king

is the same God who took on flesh for me.

Immanuel assures fellowship.

Jesus assures forgiveness.

In both names beats the heart of God:

He stays, and He saves.

You may not know this about Jesus—

He was named twice before His birth:

once to calm a king's fear,

and once to save the world.