

Immanuel in the Great Commission

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Matt 28:19 – 20

(NA 28th ed.)

(YLT)

πορευθέντες οὖν	1	having gone, then,
μαθητεύσατε πάντα τὰ ἔθνη,	2	disciple all the nations,
βαπτίζοντες αὐτούς	3	(baptizing them—
εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ	4	to the name of the Father, and of the Son,
καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος,	5	and of the Holy Spirit,
διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν	6	teaching them to observe
πάντα ὅσα ἐνετείλαμην ὑμῖν·	7	all, whatever I did command you,)
καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ μεθ' ὑμῶν εἰμι	8	and lo, I am with you
πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας	9	all the days—
ἕως τῆς συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος	10	till the full end of the age.

Okay, the participles (and one infinitive) are in green. They are all modifiers of the Great Commission's leading verb, which is purple: to make disciples. The Greek looks like "Matthew." Note how Young represents the grammar, by glossing with -ing words and putting them in parentheses. The command is to make disciples; the rest tells you what this looks like.

In a similar way, I think, Jesus also unpacks the meaning of the Name of God. *Onoma*, "name," is singular. Plural would be *onomata* (see Rev 3:4). Interestingly, the one and only, singular Name of God is then given as, "the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Not three names. One.

At this point, please read "Yhwh in John," posted [here](#). Go on. Two for the price of one today.

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Okay, assuming you are up on ἐγὼ εἰμι, read on!

Take a look at line 8, “Lo, I am with you.” There is the “I am” alright—the Name of God: Yahweh, Jehovah. Whom we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But take another look! Look close!

It isn’t just “I Am.” Rather, it is: “I with you Am.” Amazing, isn’t it? As Christians, we are in a constant state of amazement due to the Incarnation. God has made humanity part of his inner life. But look! His very name in the Great Commission has incorporated being “with us.”

What does it mean that God is the great I AM? Part of that—perhaps the most important part—means that The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is *with us*. Being with us until the end of the age is part of God’s very identity.

If this does not unshackle us from doubt and inhibition, what will? Jesus’ very I AM-ness is now spoken in the same breath as his promise to be with you. With you, especially, when you share the gospel with others and speak of Jesus and all he did. He is with you *especially*, when you do that.

As a personal anecdote, I have found in my life that when I have been doubting or questioning, all it takes for faith to flame up afresh is to share the gospel with a seeker. Have you discovered the same?

When you share the gospel, he with-you is.

When you are in pain or suffer, especially for the gospel, he with-you is.

When you go through your day doing good and right, he with-you is.

When you lay down for the last time, to die—he with-you is.

When he calls your name and you rise in newness of life to see him: he with-you will be forever! Amen!