

A Savior is Born

The Miracle of the Incarnation; the Glory of God; and Perfect Peace

December 18, 2022

Luke 2:1-20

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 "This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see

this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Brothers and Sisters, throughout the years, as I have stood in this Pulpit, I have focused on several Issues that I consider to be Hallmarks of my Ministry. For example, I believe that our Obedience to God should be motivated by our Love for God- which is a Gift from God. I believe that the Goal of Salvation is Righteousness. I believe that living a Life of humble Submission to the Authority of Scripture- not only honors God- but is also the Pathway to the fullness of my own Joy. I believe that if Jesus is not worthy of your Obedience- then He is not worthy of your Love. I believe that we are *commanded* to love God- and God has promised frightening Punishments to those who do not *enjoy* their Walk with God- which means that, at times- you have to fight for Joy. I believe that everything God does- from creating a Universe; to building a mountain; to saving a wicked rebel- He does for His Own Glory! And I believe that Salvation so transforms the human Nature- that God getting all the Glory- is what pleases us the most.

And the reason I have focused on these particular Issues is because I see that the modern Church, for the most part, has forgotten about them. And I passionately believe that forgetting about these Issues; or not even knowing that they exist- is what has caused the people of the modern Church to be so worldly; so carnal minded; and why it is so rare to find people today, who say they are saved- who are pursuing Holiness on purpose.

And one of those Issues is that the people of the modern American church no longer wonder after God. The Pulpit of the American church is filled with Politics and Social Issues- but it is not filled with the Majesty of God; or the particularities of God's Character that should stagger God's people; and break the staff of our Pride; and cause us to put our hand over our mouths and fall on the ground and Worship. The infinite brilliance of the Glory of God should flood our brains with fantastic Truths; and capture our imaginations with lofty Concepts that

are *higher* and *more important* than we are and that should leave us speechless- so we may fall in love with Jesus all over again.

Today, the people of God hear things that pertain to this Earth and this Life- but their minds and hearts no longer wonder after God; they no longer fear God. And so, the People God has chosen to be His Own Possession are amazed at the special effects of Movies; and the latest app on their smart phones- but they are no longer amazed at God.

Every single time that God visited His people- they were afraid. They trembled and they were in a stunned Silence. And God or Jesus or the Angel told them, “*Fear not*”. Why? Because they WERE afraid; they WERE trembling; and they WERE stunned.

The least popular and least attended Service in the average Church today is Bible Study. Why? Because the Bible bores people, who have become addicted to the *artificial* spiritual “High” that is caused by special effects; and smoke machines; and colored lights; and lots and lots of loud music that are supposed to *represent* the Presence and Power of God.

But the New Covenant is NOT about Representations; or Signs; or Symbols; or Types. That was the Old Covenant- BEFORE Jesus appeared. The New Covenant is all about the Reality of God in Christ- Immanuel- and Jesus, the incarnate God.

So, this Season that we call, “*Christmas*” doesn’t really have a lot to do with all the hustle and bustle that is going on; or the trees; or the cookies; or all the parties; or all the extra pounds that we are going to promise to lose as soon as the new year starts. This Season is about the most fantastic Miracle that the world has ever known- a staggering supernatural Event that was manifested at specific time; in a specific place; with a specific people that Dr. Luke recorded for us here in this Passage about 2,000 years ago.

And that is because what this Season is *supposed* to be about a *Remembrance* of that amazing Miracle. So, it is supposed to be a *Rejoicing*- an *Exultation*- a *Celebration* of the moment when the Owner and Creator of the Universe *inserted* Himself into His Own Creation; took on human flesh; and became Man.

And the “*Incarnation*”; the “fleshing of God” (Latin: *incarnare*) is a glorious Fact that is too often neglected, or forgotten, amidst all the Gifts; and Get-togethers; and Dinners; and Parties; and Pageants; and Presents of this Season. So, I want to try to *refocus* our Attention this morning and next week- on this earth-shaking Event that I pray will leave you transformed and eternally altered. And to help you do that- I want to give you five biblical Truths about the Incarnation:

1. The Incarnation was NOT the Beginning of the Divine Son

The Virgin Conception and Birth in Bethlehem of Jesus does *NOT* mark the *beginning* of the Son of God. Rather, it marks the moment when the eternal Son physically *entered* into our world and became one of us. The great Reformed Theologian of the last century, John Murray wrote,

“The Doctrine of the Incarnation is *vitiated* [diminished in importance] if it is conceived of as the beginning to be of the Person of Christ. The Incarnation means that He Who never began to be in His specific Identity as Son of God, began to be what He eternally was not”¹

... so, God the Son- “always was”; “is now”; and “always will be”. And that is why the Apostle John was “moved along” by God the Holy Spirit to write this in **John 1:1, 2, & 14:**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

... and this from **1John 1:1&2:**

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life — and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us —

... so, even though John was very “matter of fact” about Jesus’ “dual Nature” as both “*fully and truly* God” and “*fully and truly* Man”- for us to simply *try* to comprehend a Being, who is “**with**” God; and “**is**” God; and who “**became flesh and dwelt among us**” staggers our finite minds. Yet that is *exactly* what the Holy Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches.

The Bible tells us that Jesus, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem- during the reign of Caesar Augustus. And so, History tells us that He was born at some point between 6-4BC. Dr. Luke gives us some very *precise* Details about the time when Jesus was born like:

This was the first Census taken while Quirinius was Governor of Syria

¹ quoted in John Frame, *Systematic Theology*, p. 883

... which are very easy to validate.

So, we can arrive at the *approximate* time-frame when God took on Flesh and became a part of His Own Creation by using the details that the Bible provides. And this has powerful Implications because the one, true, and living God, who is revealed all through Creation and on the pages of the 66 Books of Scripture is “*Holy*”. And that word means that God is *unlike* anything that He made. So, the God we worship is *separate; distinct* and *different* from anything and everything that exists. And that means that God *normally* operates *outside* of His Creation.

But the Bible tells us that on a particular day; at a particular time in History; and in a particular city; to a particular woman- a virgin named, “Mary”- God Almighty “took on Flesh” and became Man. So, for the first time in all of Existence- God became a part of all that He had made.

But just about the time we try to wrap our heads around that- the Bible goes on to say that “God the Son” *always* existed in Eternity. And that means that the Birth of Jesus, from the virgin Mary, in the City of David, during the first Census, carried out while Quirinius was the Governor of Syria- was *not* the *beginning* of the Divine Son.

You see, we are among those who loudly and unashamedly make the claim that the 66 Books of the Holy Bible are the *inspired, inerrant, and infallible* Word of the living God. And so, as we struggle to comprehend Jesus- in all of the particular Attributes and Qualities that the Bible assigns to Him- we are careful not to *diminish* Who He really is- simply because our minds struggle to fathom God’s *Immenseness*.

So, we take the mysterious Truths of the Bible- that obviously *transcend* what we have learned over the last 6,000 years through true Science; and Biology; and Physics;- and we use the fantastic Claims of the Bible surrounding the Birth of Jesus- as just one more reason to be in awe of God. And our correct Response to realizing that God is *higher; and better; and more important* than we are- is to worship Him.

But we must know that we are *not* the first group of believers who have struggled to understand the Miracle of the “*ever- living; never created Son, Who was born of a virgin at a particular time in History*”. The fourth Century Church Father, John Chrysostom, who was called, “*the golden tongued orator*” during his day said that Jesus was,

... fully God and fully Man in the same body at the same time, without conflict of contradiction”.

... and so, we wonder after God.

And we stand in awe of who God is. But as we do that- we also *worship* and *adore* this Jesus- Who was born- *proving* that He was and is- *truly* and *fully* and *eternally* Man. But because Jesus is also *fully* and *truly* and *eternally* God- He is *entitled* to both our Allegiance and Obedience.

2. The Incarnation shows Jesus's Humility

Now Jesus is no typical King. Unlike all the other human kings of the earth- Jesus did *not* come to "be served". The Scribe commissioned by the Apostle Peter to pen down one of the four Gospel Records, John Mark, quoted Jesus as saying this in **Mark 10:45**:

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

... so, *unlike* all of the other human kings; and *unlike* all of the other false "gods" of all of the world's Man-made religions- Jesus came "*to serve*"- NOT to "*be served*".

And His amazing Humility was on full display from the very Beginning- right to the last moment- from Bethlehem all the way to Golgotha. The Apostle Paul gloried in the Humility of Christ when he wrote this in **Philippians 2:6-8**:

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

3. The Incarnation fulfills Prophecy

The Incarnation wasn't *random* or *accidental*. It wasn't some freak accident. So, it is NOT that Jesus was born and then somebody *backdated* the Record to try to prove that it was prophesied earlier. The "*fleshing of God*" was predicted in the Old Testament- in very specific detail- *hundreds* of years earlier- in accordance with God's Eternal Plan- that God designed before He made anything.

We need to remember that the 39 Books of the Old Testament were in print; and copies had been circulated as far East as India; and

as far West as England- 200 years *before* Jesus was born! So, we have literally *thousands* of Commentaries of the Old Testament Books; and *thousands* of Copies of each of the 39 OT Books- that were all printed hundreds of years before Jesus was born. And those Copies were discovered and have all been carefully examined. And the Truth about this- is that there is NO Variation between them and the English Translation that you hold in your hand this morning! And that is nothing short of a Miracle!

Perhaps the two clearest OT texts predicting that the Messiah would be both Human and God were written some 700 years before Jesus was born and say,

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

... and ...

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

His Name. The *Child's* Name. The virgin- born *Son's* Name will be...

- ✓ Immanuel (God with us)
 - ✓ Wonderful Counselor
 - ✓ Mighty God
 - ✓ Eternal Father
 - ✓ Prince of Peace
- ... and the Angel told Joseph,

... you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21b)

Seven Centuries before Mary and Joseph made the Journey to Bethlehem, God the Spirit “moved” on the Prophet Isaiah to describe a human being- a Child- a Son- Who was indeed “born” just like any other human child is born. And by saying that- Isaiah *re-enforces* the Reality that Jesus is “fully (truly) Human”. Yet even in His Humanity- this Child; this Son; is *different* in that He was born from a “virgin”.

But then all of the extraordinary Names that Isaiah was led to attach to this fully human Son like- “*Immanuel*”; and “*Wonderful Counselor*”; and “*Mighty God*”; and

“*Everlasting Father*”, And “*Prince of Peace*”- describe His full and true “*Godness*”- His Deity. And when taken together- a Son was born plus all of His Names- point clearly to Jesus being the “*God-Man*”- which makes Jesus to be the most *unique* Being in all the Universe.

4. The Incarnation is Mysterious

To a Culture that is addicted to Facebook and Internet Games and Television Comedies- deep and profound Truths pass over their heads. And so, they say, “*We don’t need that.*” But the Reality is that God has *commanded* us to worship Him with all of our Minds as well as all of our Hearts and Souls and Might. So, those Truths that seem to be out of our reach are the ones we should spend the most time with. Because one thing is certain. We are NOT better off by by-passing Truths from God’s Word that seem to be hard and deep and difficult. God is Mysterious. And all that God does- has a mysterious part to it. And so, we should struggle to understand these Mysteries- so we are not found worshipping an “unknown god”.

Now to be sure, the Scriptures do not give us Answers to all of our Questions. Some things about Jesus (as well as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit) remain Mysterious and Unknown to us. Moses understood that what God has chosen to reveal to us is not all there is- when he said this in **Deuteronomy 29:29**:

The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever...

Now Sadly, there are some, who have taken the Fact that God has not chosen to reveal *everything* to us- and used that as an excuse to not believe or trust in- *anything*. And that is tragic- since what God has revealed is more than we can comprehend in a single Lifetime. So, never allow anyone to tell you that we do not have enough Information to believe. Because we do.

But answering how it could be- that one Person could be both fully and truly God; as well as fully and truly Man is simply *not* a Question that the Scriptures focus on. And the early Church Fathers wisely *preserved* this Mystery at the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) when they wrote that Jesus is

“recognized in two natures [God and man], without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence,

not as parted or separated into two persons but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ.”

We must understand that the main Cause of Unbelief is a *dark Heart- NOT* a lack of Information. So, the deep and profound Mysteries that the Bible *unapologetically* and *repeatedly* proclaim are *NOT* the reason people don't see; and don't hear; and refuse to trust. Refusing to believe is the normal “default setting” for *all* the sons and daughters of Adam in their fallen State. It is the Grace of God that *powerfully and effectually* opens the eyes; and unstops the ears; and softens the heart. And it is God's Mercy that grants the Gift of Faith which we need in order to believe. And that Miracle occurs to every elected sinner- when the Gospel is preached. God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Apostle Paul to teach this in **Romans 10:17b**:

... faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

5. The Incarnation is *Necessary* for Salvation

The Incarnation of Jesus does not save by itself- but it is an *essential* Link in God's Plan of Redemption. John Murray explains:

“[T]he Blood of Jesus is Blood that has the requisite Efficacy and Virtue only by reason of the fact that He Who is the Son, the *effulgence* [brilliance] of the Father's Glory and the express Image of His Substance, became Himself also partaker of flesh and blood and thus was able by one Sacrifice to perfect all those who are sanctified”²

... and in **Hebrews 2:17**, the writer of the **Epistle to the Hebrews** likewise writes that Jesus

... had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

The Incarnation displays the Greatness of God. Our God is the *eternal* God- Who was born in a stable- NOT a palace surrounded by royalty. Our God is “*with us*”- He is NOT some *distant, withdrawn* “god”. Our God is a *humble and giving* God- NOT a selfish, grabbing “god”. Our God is a *purposeful and planning* God- NOT some *random, reactionary* “god”. Our God is a God, Who is far *above* us;

² *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*; p.14

and whose Ways are *not* our Ways- NOT a “god” we can put in a box and control. Our God is a God Who redeems us by His Own Blood- NOT a “god” who leaves us in our own Sin. Our God is great indeed!

But from the moment that Jesus rose from the dead- EVERYTHING changed! Now all of Creation MUST recognize Jesus! All of Creation MUST now *worship* and *love* and *obey*- Jesus! And now Salvation is ONLY brough forth through Faith in Jesus and in His finished Work!

Also, at that very moment- EVERYTHING that the Jew understood through the Types and Shadows and Symbols of the First Covenant was made Real in the Person of Jesus Christ. And so, it was no longer enough for a Jew to believe in God. Now the ONLY Way the Jew can glorify God the Father is to believe in Jesus! And that is *why* the Apostle Paul wrote this in **2Corinthians 4:3-6:**

**3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

5 For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.

6 For God, wo said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

... where the phrase, “**the Face of Christ**” in verse 6 refers to the *Person* of Jesus.

Now there are a number of ways to try to discuss this amazing moment when God became a Man. But let’s focus on verse 14:

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

Now the good doctor is here quoting what a multitude of the Heavenly Host said when they appeared with the Angel that was already talking to the Shepherds. And as we discovered when we were in our “Journey” through this magnificent Gospel Record- the reason that these Shepherds were here near to Jerusalem in the first place was no doubt because they had been hired to raise the animals, who were going to be used for Sacrifices in Jerusalem.

And as these Shepherds were with their flocks on just another normal evening- this Gentile doctor tells us in **Luke 2:9:**

an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

... and then this frightening, shining Angel began to speak to the Shepherds and said,

Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10b-12)

... so even though the Angel had been dispatched from Heaven and was not human- he spoke to these men in a language they could understand. And as they were trying to take in all that this immortal being was saying to them- Luke says

... and suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (Luke 2:13&14)

Now for most of my entire life- this Heavenly Exclamation was usually quoted as being something like,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

... which is how the Translators of the King James rendered it back in 1611. But that is actually a *terrible* Translation. The literal Greek reads:

Glory in the highest to God, and on earth peace among men with whom He good will

The Latin Vulgate (4th Century) *incorrectly* rendered this phrase to say, "*peace to men of good will*"- which is simply *NOT* what was said and gives the wrong impression. Others *incorrectly* teach that the Heavenly Host said,

"Peace and good will toward men"

... as if this was some kind of Exhortation for us all to *embrace* the Grace of God- which isn't any better.

Now it is true that the “Peace” that the Lord offers us- takes effect only when we actually “*receive it*”. But this phrase is NOT uncommon in the New Testament. And it is best understood in connection to the Hebrew- rather than the Greek. What the Heavenly Host said has nothing to do with us *accepting* God’s Grace. The Host was speaking about the *Source* of Grace- and was proclaiming that “Peace” is a “free Gift” that flows out from the pure Mercy of God. So, this phrase is *best* understood as being,

... On earth, Peace among those with whom God is pleased

... or

... On earth, Peace among those with whom God has [sovereignly] caused to be favored

So, the Heavenly Host was proclaiming that, in, by, and through this Child, Who was born that day in Bethlehem- God the Father will now bring “Peace” to those “chosen ones”- God’s elect- upon whom God has *purposefully* and *powerfully* and *sovereignly* placed His Favor; or His “Good Will”; or His Grace.

Now the “Peace” referred to here is not merely the “*absence of war*” or the “*cessation of trouble*”; or the “*end of hostility*” among the people in the earth- that is so commonly thought. This has *nothing* to do with people being more kind to one another (even though we are commanded to be Kind to each other).

This Heavenly Exclamation is very *narrowly* referring to a “*Peace with God*”! The Heavenly Host was saying that this Son, Who has been born that day in the City of David- is the One Who will bring an End to the Wrath of God that is against all of Humanity because of the Sin of Adam; and the individual acts of Rebellion and Treason against God that all of us have engaged in during our lives.

Now look again at verse

11:

for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Dr. Luke tells us that all this happened on a particular day in History. So, this is not some day in a mythological, imaginary Story- but a very specific day when

“Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome and Quirinius was governor of Syria.”

... which are both historically verified people and events.

Now, as I said, because the calendar was later changed- we can narrow *this* “day” down to sometime between 6-4BC. But we also need to remember that this was also a day that was planned back in “*Eternity Past*”- a moment *before* the Creation of the world. Indeed, the whole Universe- with untold light-years of Space and billions of Galaxies- was created and made glorious for *this* particular Day and what it meant for human History. The Apostle Paul said this in **Colossians 1:16:**

For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.

... For Him! For His Appearance! For this day of His Appearing!

Galatians 4:4&5

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

... so, this happened on a *particular* Day. The *perfect* Day. In the “*fullness of Time*”. The perfect Time appointed by God before the Foundation of the World. “For unto you is born *this day!*”

“... in the city of David.”

God also took on Flesh in a *particular* City. Not in “Narnia”. Not in “Middle Earth”. Not in “never, never- Land”. Not in a “Galaxy far, far away”. It happened in a City about 7,000 miles from Gulfport. And that City still exists today. And there are people there this morning. So, this City is real. And the City’s name is Bethlehem.

And Bethlehem is about six miles from Jerusalem. Bethlehem is the City where Jesse lived- the father of David, the great king of Israel. Bethlehem is the city that, 700 years earlier, the Prophet Micah wrote about in **Micah 5:2:**

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.

“... a Savior ...”

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior.” A Savior! If you have ever sinned against God- even just once- then your *greatest* Need; the paramount *Urgency* that you have- is *not* more Money; or *better* Health; or even a more pleasant Disposition. No, your *greatest* Need is Forgiveness. Because without Forgiveness- you are eternally doomed. And the Angel said this to Joseph in **Matthew 1:20b&21:**

... do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

But notice what the Angel did NOT say. He did NOT say that Jesus would eliminate Poverty; or the removal of Disease. Jesus would NOT be a fix for the unequal distribution of Wealth. He will NOT be a Solution for the inherent Unfairness and Injustice that humans perpetrate on one another. At least not directly.

All of those things and much more will be adjudicated *perfectly* in the next Life. And to some extent- among those who have their Sins forgiven- those Social Issues will be improved in this Life. So, it is Good that Believers work toward those things now.

But, very narrowly, *that* Son; at *that* time; born to *that* Virgin; in *that* City; at *that* point in History- when God took on Flesh and became Man- He came so that guilty Sinners could find Forgiveness for their Sins; and find Peace with God. And, until *that* Good News is preached and taught and believed- the Great Commission is *not* being fulfilled.

But unlike any other religion or human philosophy- before or since- the Forgiveness that Jesus gives- is based on what *He alone* did for us- and *NOT* on what we have done for ourselves.

Christianity alone boldly proclaims that wicked rebels are forgiven and made Righteous by what we *believe in*; what we *trust in*; and what we *confess*- and *NOT* by what we “do”. Now take heed that you understand that believers are *absolutely* commanded to “go” and “do” a lot. In fact, the Bible is clear that those who do not “do” after they are saved- are not really saved at all- and are simply *deceived* about what they think they have believed in. But all of the “doing” of Christians is simply a loving and humble and joyful *Response* to the Work of Salvation that God has already finished in us. Our “doing” is *NOT* and *cannot be*- the *Cause* of our Salvation.

But we must know that only God can forgive those Sins that are against God. And ALL of our Sins have *insulted and offended* God. ALL of our Sins

have *belittled* God's Glory. And so, unless we receive Forgiveness of Sins from God- we are eternally doomed. And *that* is why God sent the eternal Son of God into the world, because *that* Son is God. And God is a *forgiving* God- by His very Nature.

So, it is *not* true- as some claim, that the God of the Old Testament was a violent, brutal, angry, unforgiving Deity- while the God of the New Testament is a gentle and loving Savior. That is simply not what the Bible teaches. God is the same. And that's why Jesus said this in **Luke 5:24b**:

... the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins

... so, *more* than a Teacher; *more* than an Example; *more* than a Prophet. The Son, Who was born on *that* day in *that* city- is a *Savior*!

“... *who is Christ* ...”

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, *who is Christ*.”

Now from the time a Jew was old enough to think- he was taught that God was going to send a *Messiah*- the “Anointed One”. But the longer they waited- the more the understanding of the “Anointed One” was *warped* and *perverted* and *twisted*. So, by the time that God actually sent the Messiah- the very people, who should have welcomed Him the *most* and the *easiest*- called Him “*Beelzebul*” (devil); and they categorically rejected Him; and, finally, called for His execution.

For the most part- the Jew of the 1st Century weren't looking for a Savior, Who would save them from their own individual Sins. They were deceived into looking for a “Warrior-King”- who would raise an indestructible army; that would utterly annihilate the pagan Romans; and bring back the Glory of Israel that they enjoyed under King David. This Warrior-King would then march, triumphantly, down main street in Jerusalem and sit down in the Throne of David and rule the world with a rod of iron- as the Prophets foretold.

So, when the “Son of Joseph” stood before them and told them to forgive their enemies; and turn the other cheek; and to do good to the very ones who were persecuting them- the most religious people on earth knew that this Man was a fraud and an imposter and could never “fit the bill” of being the true Messiah. So, they cried for Him to die.

But after this Anointed One rose from the dead and the Gospel began to go into Jerusalem and into Judea and into Samaria and then into the utter most parts of the world- the pagan Gentile world began to hear that even *their* sins could be forgiven by this same One. But these people were not raised under the Law of God

and the customs and terms that were paramount to the Jew- meant nothing to them. And very soon- it became apparent to the Apostles that term, “Messiah” meant nothing to the Gentiles.

So, God used the Apostle Paul to coin *another* term, “Christ”, which comes from the Greek word, *Christos*, which means “Anointed One”. So, even though the Gentiles had no knowledge of a *Messiah* that was supposed to come- they could relate to the One Who was anointed above all others- to save *them* from *their* Sins!

So, yes- Jesus was the final anointed King of Israel! Yes, He was the final anointed Prophet! Yes, He was the final anointed Priest! Yes, in Jesus- all the Promises of God found in the Old Testament are “Yes!” And, yes- Jesus alone would fulfill all the hopes and dreams of godly Israel! But Jesus was even *greater* than that. Because all of the fears and all of the hopes of all the pagans of the entire world- who were steeped in barbaric Customs and false religions- and who knew nothing of the Old Covenant- would also come together in this one single Man.

Because more than simply “Savior” – this one Man; born on *that* day in *that* City- is also . . .

“ . . . *the Lord.*”

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ *the Lord.*”

Jesus is much *more* than merely a “Savior”. He is also the “Ruler”, the “Master”; the “Sovereign”; the “Mighty God”; the “Everlasting Father”; and the “Lord of the whole Universe”! There is not one inch or ounce of matter that exists anywhere in any galaxy- that Jesus does not look at and say, “*That’s Mine!*” in **The Revelation 19:16b**, the Apostle John said that Jesus was,

... KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

... so, even when Jesus comes back- there will be “kings” on the earth. And everywhere there are earthly “kings”- there are earthly “lords”, who serve under those kings. But Jesus will be a great King over all the other earthly kings and Jesus will be a great Lord over all the other earthly lords. And that means that...

- On a particular Day in real History
- In a particular City in a real World
- A particular Child- a particular Son

- The Savior- Who would take away all our Sin and Guilt
- The Christ- Who would fulfill all our Hopes
- The Lord- Who would defeat all our Enemies; and make us Safe; and bring us the fullness of Joy forever

... was born.

And He was born to a virgin. So, Jesus was fully and truly Man. But He was also fully and truly God. And we are fully and truly Guilty. And He is fully and truly our Savior- Who will fully and truly forgive anyone- no matter how bad they have been- who is granted with the Power and graced with the Desire to trust in Him and in His finished Work!

So, this Child; this Son; this Jesus- will grant all those to whom God has placed His Grace and Favor on- the most important Commodity in all the Universe- the Forgiveness of Sins that brings about Peace with God!

But He is also fully and truly Lord- Who will sovereignly keep all those who trust in Him! And He will powerfully vanquish all His Enemies. And He will come back- to put an End to all Injustice and all Selfishness and all Violence and all Evil and all Wickedness. And this Savior and Lord and Christ will do that- by defeating all unrepentant Sinners and casting them into everlasting Damnation in Hell because they refused to believe; and they found Pleasure in Unrighteousness rather than in Him.

But He will wondrously receive all those who fear Him; and all those who tremble at His Word; and all those who have been graciously allowed to possess the Gift of Faith- unto Himself!

And this Son; this Child; this virgin born; ever- living; never created; always faithful Savior and Lord- Jesus the Christ- the God-Man- the incarnate God- will grant us unimaginable Pleasure and Joy- by His Side- forever!

Amen. Let's pray.

© 2017-2022 by *Enjoying God Ministries, Inc.* All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, MS 39574; www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from an examination of the **Miracle of the Incarnation**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of *Enjoying God Ministries, Inc.* and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

