

Lighthouse Bible Church

December 28th, 2014 (*Not done 12-21*)

Luke 1: 26 – 38 Revelation 9: 11 – 16

His First and Second Coming

Since I didn't get to share this last week, many of you asked if I would now
For those of you who have been with us for the last several weeks know that we have been looking at the signs that the end is near and that Jesus Christ is coming back again. It all started with a question His disciples asked Him in Matthew 24: 3 when they asked Him 'what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age'.

We have been looking at some of those signs leading up to the 2nd coming of Jesus and, because this is still close to Christmas, I wanted to look at Christmas from the perspective of His first coming, and the reason we celebrate Christmas, and His second coming when we will celebrate His return forever.

Because, as we shall see, there are both similarities and there is a stark contrast between the first time Jesus came to this earth and the second time He comes. And quite frankly, there is far, far more said about His second coming than there is about His first coming in Scripture.

Yet for many of us, we celebrate His first coming, something that not even His disciples or the early church celebrated nor were commanded to celebrate, but for historical and cultural reasons we have come to the place today where we celebrate the birth of Jesus in what we call Christmas.

We are called to celebrate and commemorate and remember His death 1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26 tells us. We are called to celebrate His resurrection from the dead in the form of worship and giving on the first day of the week, Mark 16: 9, Acts 20: 7 and 1st Corinthians 16: 2 says.

We are called to look forward to His second coming **Titus 2: 13**, **2nd Timothy 4: 8**, and **2nd Peter 3: 12 – 13** says. And yet much of our celebration and focus and spending and decorating and exchanging of gifts are done at His birth.

Not to minimize His birth in any way, because His birth was a planned, miraculous, foretold and prophesied birth as **Luke 1: 31 – 33**, **Matthew 1: 20 – 23** and many other places tell us. **Matthew 1: 23** says **behold the virgin Mary shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel which is translated God with us.**

His birth would cause wise men, magi, **Matthew 2: 1 – 2** to **come from the east saying where is He who is born king of the Jews for we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him.**

His birth even caused **king Herod** out of jealousy, rage and revenge to **kill all male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts from two years old and under** **Matthew 2: 16** says.

His birth even caused an angel and a heavenly host of angels, **Luke 2: 8 – 14**, to seek out some **shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night** to tell them **there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord** and to **praise God by saying glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

So His birth is very, very important but it seems to get more attention and celebration than the other more important events in His life. When it comes to celebrating His birth, it should pale in comparison to what His death, burial and resurrection and even to His second coming should receive. But none of that would be possible without His birth.

So to put things in perspective, I want to look at and compare ~~and celebrate together this morning,~~ not only the birth of Jesus Christ, at His first coming, but the return of Jesus Christ, and His second coming, which hopefully will stir our hearts to a greater celebration and worship of our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ every day. I want to look at some contrasts and comparison between His first and second coming. So let's start with:

His Birth and His Return Predicted:

They were both predicted and prophesied in Scripture to happen long before either one would happen. In **Isaiah 7: 14** it says **therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign, behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel.** This was fulfilled and documented in **Matthew 1: 18 – 23** *review* which concludes by saying **and she shall bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from the sins, so all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying 'behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and they shall call His name Immanuel which is translated God with us.**

His second coming was also predicted, prophesied and will be fulfilled in the future. Every promise of His first coming came to pass just as they said. **Zechariah 14: 4** says **on that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces on the east and the Mount of Olives will be split in two... Daniel 7: 13 – 14 talks about the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven.**

Jesus said in **Matthew 24: 27 – 30** that **as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be...and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven.**

His Birth and Return did cause and will cause great mourning:

Do you remember in **Matthew 2: 13 – 18** that after Jesus' birth His parents took Him to Egypt and that angered king Herod so he had all the children 2 years of age and under killed and it says in Verse 18 **a voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping and GREAT MOURNING** because of the death of the children.

Well, there will be MOURNING at His Second coming as well. We read in **Zechariah 12: 10** where it says that upon Jesus' return **they will look on Him whom they pierced and MOURN for Him as one MOURNS for his only son and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.** Jesus Himself said when He comes back in **Matthew 24: 30** that **the tribes of the earth will mourn** when they see Him. **Revelation 1: 7** says **He is coming with clouds and every eye will see Him even they who pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth will MOURN because of Him.** By the way, according to **Isaiah 60: 20** **all mourning shall be ended** when Jesus comes back.

His Birth and 2nd Coming were to save His people from their sins:

In **Luke 2: 11** it says **for there is born to you this day in the city of David a SAVIOR who is Christ the Lord.** In **Matthew 1: 21** talking about Mary giving birth it says **she will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus for He shall SAVE His people from their sins.** It can't be said any clearer than in **1st Timothy 1: 15** which says **this is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus CAME INTO THE WORLD to SAVE sinners.** **John 3: 17** says **for God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.** **1st John 3: 5** says **He was manifested to take away our sins and in Him is no sin at all.**

That is why Jesus was born, that is why Jesus died and that is why Jesus will come again the 2nd time. *Share the gospel here.*

But when Jesus comes back He WILL judge this world in righteousness and as **Matthew 25: 31 – 46** says, send the unrighteous **to everlasting punishment but the righteous to eternal life.** In **Matthew 13: 41 – 43** it says **the son of Man will send out His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend and those who practice lawlessness and will cast them into the furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom..**

Matthew 13: 49 says that when Jesus comes back He will **separate the wicked from among the just.** **John 5: 28 – 29** says **do not marvel at this for the hour is coming in which all who are in the grave will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation.**

He is God at His Birth and His 2nd Coming:

Remember in **Matthew 1: 21 - 23** where it says **she shall bring for a Son and you shall call His name Jesus** and then it says **behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son and you shall call His name Immanuel which is translated God with us.** **1st Timothy 3: 16** says that **God was manifest in the flesh,** **John 1: 1, 14** says **in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word WAS God...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.** He was God at birth and He will be at His 2nd coming. **Titus 2: 13** says **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing, His second coming, of our great GOD and Savior Jesus Christ.**

His Birth was unnoticed His Return will be seen by everyone:

One of the biggest contrasts we see between His birth, His first coming, and His second coming is that when He first came, hardly anyone knew about it. He was born **Luke 2: 12** says **in a manger in Bethlehem**. The Shepherds had to be told where He was at.

The wise men came looking for Him because they didn't know where He was at and **Matthew 2: 9 – 11** says **they had to follow a star that led them to a house where Jesus was at**. King Herod and all the city of Jerusalem and the chief priests and scribes and religious leaders of Israel didn't know that He was born.

Even though **Matthew 1: 5 – 6** says they **knew the Christ would be born in Bethlehem of Judea because it was written by the prophets that He would**. They didn't know He was born. His birth had no fanfare, no glory, no trumpets sounding His arrival, no royal birth place.

He was born in a stable because they didn't even have room for Him in the inn, **Luke 2: 7** said, and apart from God's divine intervention, no one knew about it, for the most part, but Joseph and Mary.

But it will be very different at His second coming, won't it? Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 24: 27** **as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west so also will the coming of the Son of Man be**. **Revelation 1: 7** says **He is coming with clouds and EVERY EYE will see Him, even they who pierced Him**.

As a matter of fact, **Revelation 6: 15 – 17** says **and the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains to hide from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb**.

His first coming was meek and lowly and in humility and obscurity but at His second coming **all the tribes of the earth will see Him** because He will be coming **Matthew 24: 30** says **with power and great glory.**

Think about that contrast like this; at His birth, His first coming **Matthew 1: 21, 23** says **He is to be called Jesus and Immanuel, God with us** and yet no one came, other than some shepherds and wise men, to bow before Him in worship. But listen to what **Philippians 2: 8 – 11** says *Read.*

His birth and 2nd coming were revealed by a sign in the sky:

Do you remember the sign that the Wise men saw in the sky that brought them from the east? In **Matthew 2: 2** it says **we have seen HIS STAR in the east and have come to worship Him.** And it wasn't any normal star, it was a sign pointing them to Jesus.

As a matter of fact **Matthew 2: 9 – 10** it says **when they heard the king, they departed and behold the STAR which they had seen in the east went before them till it came and stood over where the young Child was and when they saw the star they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.**

And there is going to be another supernatural sign at the return of Jesus Christ as well. In **Matthew 24: 30** it says **then the SIGN of the Son of Man will appear in heaven and then they will see the Son of Man**

At His birth and His return, angels played a very important part:

We saw that in some detail last Sunday evening but just to show you their involvement, we see in **Luke 1: 26** the **angel Gabriel** coming to **Mary** and telling her that **she will conceive a Son and call His name Jesus.**

We see in **Matthew 1: 20** and **angel of the Lord telling Joseph it is ok to take Mary to be his wife** and the reason why. We see an **angel** and a **heavenly host** of angels telling the **shepherds about His birth** and where He is at.

And we will see angels there when Jesus comes back the second time. In **2nd Thessalonians 1: 7** it says when Jesus **is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels...** In **Matthew 24: 31** when Jesus comes back it says **He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they will gather His elect..** angels, as we shall see tonight, play a significant part with every aspect of Jesus.

There is a song that puts the birth, life, death, resurrection and return of Jesus in perspective called 'in the first light'. *On Next Page*

In the first light of a new day
no one knew he had arrived,
Things continued as they had been
while a newborn softly cried,
But the heavens, wrapped in wonder,
knew the meaning of his birth,
In the weakness of a baby,
they knew God had come to Earth.

As his mother held him closely,
it was hard to understand that her baby,
not yet speaking, was the word of God to man,

He would tell them of his kingdom,
but their hearts would not believe,
And they would hate Him and,
in anger they would nail him to a tree,

But the sadness would be broken
as the song of life arose,
And the firstborn of creation
would ascend and take his throne,

He had left it to redeem us
but before his life began
He knew He'd come back,
not as a baby,
but as the Lord of every man.

Hear the angels as they're singing
on the morning of His birth,
But how much greater will our song be
when He comes to rule the earth.

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The First and Second Coming of Jesus

Celebrating, commemorating and remembering:

1st Corinthians 11: 23 – 26, Mark 16: 9, Acts 20: 7

1st Corinthians 16: 2, Titus 2: 13, 2nd Timothy 4: 8

2nd Peter 3: 12 – 13

The Importance and Impact of His Birth:

Luke 1: 31 – 33, Matthew 1: 20 – 23

Matthew 2: 1 – 2, 16, Luke 2: 8 – 14

Comparing and Contrasting His 1st and 2nd Coming:

1)

Isaiah 7: 14, Matthew 1: 18 – 23, Zechariah 14: 4

Daniel 7: 13 – 14, Matthew 24: 27 – 30

2)

Matthew 2: 13 – 18, 24: 30, Zechariah 12: 10

Revelation 1: 7, Isaiah 60: 20

3)

Luke 2: 11, Matthew 1: 21, 1st Timothy 1: 15

John 3: 17, 1st John 3: 5, Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Matthew 13: 41 – 43, 49, John 5: 28 – 29

4)

Matthew 1: 21 – 23, 1st Timothy 3: 16, John 1: 1, 14

Titus 2: 13

5)

Luke 2: 7, 12, Matthew 2: 9 – 11, Matthew 1: 5 – 6, 21, 23

Matthew 24: 27, 30, Revelation 1: 7, 6: 15 – 17

6)

Matthew 2: 2, 9 – 10, Matthew 24: 30 – 31

7)

Luke 1: 26, Matthew 1: 20, 24: 31, 2nd Thessalonians 1: 7

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