

The Steps of Jesus – 08/06/23

TEXT- Galatians 4:4-5 *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

INTRO –

Think back as far as you can remember. Then consider the creation of the world 6000 – 10,000 years ago. Then consider eternity past. It is impossible for the human mind to comprehend eternity past or future. Everlasting is a term we do not use. Yet Jesus existed in eternity past. But God sent His son to the earth to be born of a woman, to take on the form of flesh. He was subject to like passions as us.

Jesus is eternal - Hebrews 7:3 *Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.*

John 1:1-5, 10-14

I. The Preexistence of Jesus

Micah foretold the Messiah to come who is from everlasting - Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

In Isaiah 9:6 Among other titles He is called the everlasting Father. Literally the Father of eternity.

If you are trying to make sense of this world it begins by realizing Jesus Christ in eternity past created this world and we are answerable to him. Anything less than that relegates man to an animal without a conscience and a creator that can live however he pleases. But if He did create the world then the triune God's plan from the foundation of the world is makes the difference in how we live our lives.

II. Why did Jesus come to earth?

A. Jesus Came to Give His Life as a Ransom for Many

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

B. Jesus Came to Call Sinners to Repentance

1 Timothy 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

C. Jesus Came to Give Eternal Life

Matthew 10:34-35 *Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

D. To destroy the works of the Devil

1 John 3:8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*

- To do the will of the Father - John 6:38, Hebrews 10:7

John 9:39 *And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.*

- To bear witness to the truth - John 18:37
- To preach the gospel to the poor – Luke 4:18
- To preach the acceptable year of the Lord - Luke 4: 19

III. The Birth of Jesus – In Bethlehem the city of David

The incarnation was not an afterthought for God. He did not come up with this great idea after spending 4,000 years from Creation to the birth of Christ wondering how to fix man's sin problem. God knows everything. He knew man would rebel against Him and sin, even before He created Adam and Eve. He also knew exactly how He would remedy man's hell-bound problem before it even began.

Philippians 2:5-8 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

A. It was conceived from the foundation of the world.

1 Peter 1:18-20 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

B. There was a sign to the Jews - Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

C. The annunciation to Mary

Luke 1:26-33 *And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. and the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. . . .*

1. Mary was very young
2. Mary was very humble
3. Mary was very highly favored
4. Mary was uncertain

D. The angel appeared to Joseph

Matthew 1:20-23 *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. See Isaiah 7:14*

E. The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem

F. No room in the inn

G. They found a place in a stable

H. She brought forth her firstborn son

I. The angels announced his birth to the shepherds

CONCL – The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, took the form of a human being in order for man to have a comprehension and an understanding of the nature of God and for God to experience every trial and tribulation faced by man. By looking at Jesus, man could understand the nature of God and remove all misunderstandings and false notions of God from his mind. God was not far away and beyond human reach and understanding. Through the incarnation, God dwelt among men and enabled man to comprehend God.

Through the incarnation, the Lord Jesus experienced the trials and tribulations and temptations faced by mankind. God was not far away without any comprehension of what mankind faced in this evil world. Jesus was tested in every way and yet lived without sin. Whatever sufferings we may face in our life, the Lord Jesus has faced it in an even greater way. Therefore, He is a high priest who can sympathize and empathize with our struggles and have compassion on us and shower us with His grace and mercy to meet every need in our lives.

The next sermon will include -

- **The Dedication of Jesus**
- **The Protection of Jesus in Egypt**
- **The Childhood Of Jesus in Nazareth**
- **The Conversation with the Jewish Leaders in Jerusalem**