

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Right now, I'd like for us to look at the birth of Jesus Christ. The Jews have always been a stiff-necked people. They turned their back on God many times, as we read in the Word of God, but when I say they were a stiff-necked people, so are Gentiles. So have we turned our back on God so many times in our lives, and people today are turning their backs on God, upon His Son, Jesus Christ. So when I say people are stiff-necked, that means they are hardheaded. They simply do not want to listen to what God has to say, but the Jews all through the Word of God kept refusing to believe what God said in His Word.

As we look back even in the Old Testament, the Jews were not looking for a Savior even then. The Jews were looking for a king. The Jews continued in their unbelief, and we read about that in the book of Isaiah. In Isaiah 7:14, the Bible says, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Then we look in the New Testament, Matthew 1:23. It says, *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.* Jesus Christ is God.

During Christ's ministry on this earth, the Jews did not believe what He said, so He said this in Luke 11:29: *And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, **This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.*** What about the sign of Jonas? Of course, that is speaking of Jonah. In Jonah 1:17, it says, *Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah.*

And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Well, as Jonah, or Jonas, was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish and came out, so the body of Christ would be three days and three nights buried and then come out alive.

The prophecy of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ was prophesied before He was even born, and people still refuse to believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world... of mankind if they would only trust Him.

The time of Christ's birth seems to have been like this: As we look back and we look at the journey that Mary and Joseph had to go on before the birth of Christ, we see they came from Nazareth to Bethlehem. And as we look at a map, the 70-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would probably have been too difficult for Mary in the winter. This would be in December, so a more probable time of the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem would be late September, the time of the annual Feast of Tabernacle.

Well, the conception of Christ, some believe, may have even taken place in late December of the year preceding Christ's birth, and this is not a certainty, of course, but our Christmas celebration in December may well be recognized as an honored observation of the incarnation of the Word made flesh (John 1:14). What I'm saying is this. It doesn't make any difference when we celebrate the birth of Christ. We celebrate His birth. We celebrate that He came into this world to seek and to save those who were lost and that is the important thing for all of us to remember. Jesus Christ did come into the world to seek and to save.

What about the place where Jesus was born? Of course, by reading the Word of God we know that He was born in Bethlehem. In Micah 5:2, it says, *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.*

And then we look in Luke 2:4-7 and it talks about the birth. It says, *⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)* *⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.* And, of course, that is Luke 2:4-6.

After Christ's birth, Christ was laid in a manger, according to Luke 2:7. *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

What about the manner of the birth of Christ? Well, the conception of Christ by Mary was supernatural. In Matthew 1:18, the Bible says, *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.* And let me say that, as we read this next verse, some translations or some commentaries of the Word of God try to tell you that Mary was simply a young girl, that she wasn't a virgin, but the Bible teaches us that she was a virgin. In Isaiah 7:14, it says, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

So many people are confused and they don't understand when they read certain translations

or commentaries of the Bible. They do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God because man has corrupted the Word of God by saying that a young woman would conceive. No, the Bible says that a virgin would be with child.

Well, what about witnesses to the birth? Do we know of anyone who saw? Were there any people there who saw Jesus Christ at His birth? And what about people after the birth? Did anyone witness Jesus Christ on this Earth? Well, of course, Mary and Joseph were witnesses to the birth of Christ. They were there. In Luke 2:15-16, the Bible says, *¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

We also read in Luke 2:10-14, *¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹¹And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Well, of course, Mary and Joseph were there, and as we just read, the shepherds were there, as well. They were witnesses to the birth of Christ. Luke 2:8 says, *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.* And of course, the angel of the Lord told them about the birth of Jesus Christ, and the shepherds

went and they saw for themselves Jesus Christ in the flesh.

And an old man by the name of Simeon, the son of Jacob, gave witness to Christ as the salvation of God. Luke 2:25-32 says this: ²⁵*And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.* ²⁶*And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.* ²⁷*And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus... [Now, this was after Christ was born. This was when He was being dedicated...] to do for him after the custom of the law,* ²⁸*Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,* ²⁹*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:* ³⁰*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,* ³¹*Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;* ³²*A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

And we go back to the book of Genesis 49:18. It says, *I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.* In that verse, this is the first mention of the word "salvation" in the Bible, and the Hebrew word... this is interesting... the Hebrew word "yeshuwah" is actually the same as the name "Jesus." There are only three adjectives used in the New Testament to describe our salvation. In Hebrews 2:3, it's so great salvation; in Hebrews 5:9, it is eternal salvation; and in Jude 3, it's the common salvation. Jesus Christ, salvation to those who will trust Him as Savior.

Well, not only did the people and the angels that I've mentioned bear witness to Jesus Christ coming into this world, and there were other ones as well, but God the Father gave witness to the birth of Christ. In Luke 3:22, the Bible says, *And the Holy Ghost descended in a*

bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased. In Luke 9:35, *And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.* And II Peter 1:17, *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

There are many prophecies concerning the birth of Christ and the coming of Christ. In Jeremiah 23:5-8, it talks there about the righteous branch. He would be the righteous branch. And in Daniel 2:44 and Daniel 7:13-14 it says He would have a kingdom.

We also see that, according to I Samuel 7:16 and Isaiah 9:6-7 that Christ would reign on the throne of David. He would also rule the nations with a rod of iron. His reign was to be glorious according to Psalm 72 and Isaiah 2:1-4.

Now, today, my question to you is have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? If not, you need to receive Him right now. Ask Him to come into your heart. "Lord Jesus, forgive me of my sin and come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior."

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