

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Gal. 4:4-5

Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” God took some 4,000 years preparing the world for the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. He began making the promise of His coming as He spoke to the serpent in the garden shortly after Adam and Eve had sinned. **Genesis 3:15**, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” When all was prepared, **Galatians 4:4**, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son....” What a tremendous statement! God sent forth His Son. No birth has ever affected human history as this one.

Much excitement usually surrounds the birth of a baby, especially the first. There is the preparation of the nursery, the pampering of the expectant mother, the selecting of names, and of course wondering if it is a boy or a girl. But the mother of Jesus did not have all these excitements surrounding the birth of her firstborn child. There was no nursery to prepare, only a manger in a stable. There was very little pampering because they had just completed a long hard trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. She did not have to wonder if it was a boy or girl. The angel had already told her it would be a Son. She did not even have to select His name for it was given at the time of conception.

However, there definitely was some excitement surrounding His birth. His mother knew who He was. Joseph knew who He was. The wise men of the East knew who He was and began a long journey to visit Him. Angels appeared from Heaven to announce His birth to the shepherds in the nearby fields. **Luke 2:9-11**, “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” A star appeared over the place where He was born to guide the wise men of the East to come and worship Him. **Matthew 2:2, 9**, “...Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.” “...When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.” King Herod murdered all the babies under two years of age trying to kill Him. No child's birth has impacted the world as this one did.

What made the birth of Jesus Christ unique? For one thing, His birth was a virgin birth. This fulfilled prophecies reaching all the way back to the Garden of Eden where the Seed of the woman is promised in Genesis 3:15. (This is the only reference to a seed of woman.) Isaiah recorded that the birth would be of a virgin (Isa. 7:14). Another unique and astounding fact is the truth that God had become a man. Yet, though He was God in human flesh, His birth was as a pauper's. “He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7). One other unique fact that is quite evident to us is that, though it was invisible to the eye then, we can see the ominous shadow of a rugged Roman cross falling across the beautiful face of this lovely babe in the manger.

Please consider the main thoughts that Isaiah presents to us in his prophecy. **Isaiah 9:6**, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

I. “A CHILD IS BORN” (This speaks of His humanity.)

Jesus Christ is man- 100% man. (He grew as we do.) He hungered and ate as a man. He tired and slept as a man. He learned by study as a man. He prayed as a man. He was tempted as a man. He suffered physical pain as a man. Jesus Christ is the Second-man (I Cor. 15:45-47). God created the first man from the dust of the earth. He was tested. He sinned and lost himself and all his descendants. God created the second man in the virgin's womb. He was tested; did not sin, then redeemed us.

A. His birth was foretold in detail long before it happened.

1. *He would be born to Israel the tribe of Judah.*

Genesis 49:10, “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*.”

2. *He would be born to the family of David.*

2 Samuel 7:12, 16, “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.” “And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

3. *He would be born of a virgin.*

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.”

4. *He would be born in the city of Bethlehem.*

Micah 5:2, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *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.”

5. *He would be despised and rejected.*

Isaiah 53:3, “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

6. *He would be crucified (Psa. 22)*

7. *He would be raised from the dead.*

Psalms 16:10, “For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”

B. His birth was a virgin birth (Matt. 1:25).

1. *This was necessary to fulfill Scripture (Matt. 1:22-23).*

2. *This was necessary to provide a Saviour.*

- a. He had to become one of us.
- b. He had to be free of the sin nature.

II. “A SON IS GIVEN” (This speaks of His Deity.)

A. Jesus Christ is God- 100% God. (I Tim. 3:16)

1. *He is the incarnation of the Godhead (Col. 2:9).*

2. *He is the creator of the universe (John 1:1-3).*

3. *He is the sustainer of the universe (Col. 1:16-17).*

4. *He is the eternal God from eternity past.*

B. Jesus Christ is the unique God-man.

1. *He was God at His birth.*

- a. God- though wrapped in swaddling clothes and helpless in a manger crib.
- b. God- though nursing at a breast He created; truly an infant in His mother's arms.

2. *He was God in His childhood.* He astounded doctors when He was twelve (Luke 2:46-47).

3. *He was God in His earthly ministry.*

- a. The elements and animals obeyed Him.
- b. The devils obeyed Him.
- c. The crippled and diseased were healed and the dead were raised at His word.

4. *He was God on the cross.*

- a. He saved the repentant thief.
- b. He dismissed His own spirit in death.

5. *He was God in His resurrection.*

6. *He is God now awaiting His return to earth.*

III. “HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED...” (These describe who and what He is.)

A. “Wonderful”- supernatural events surround Him.

1. *While on earth the first time.*
2. *Now in the miracle of salvation.*
3. *When He returns to rule the world.*

B. “Counsellor”- He is the one always by our side to comfort.

**C. “The Mighty God”; “The Everlasting Father”-
*He is one with the Father, the express image.***

D. “The Prince of Peace”- He is the only one who can bring peace.

IV. **“THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDERS.”**

A. Jesus Christ is the judge of all men (John 5:21-22).

1. *At the judgment seat of Christ.*
2. *At the judgment of living nations.*
3. *During the 1000-year reign on earth.*
4. *At the great white throne judgment at the end of time.*

**B. Jesus Christ is the rightful ruler of this world.
*He will rule in person on earth for 1000 years.***

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS BIRTH?

A. He revealed the true character of God.

John 14:8-9, “Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?” **Hebrews 1:1-3**, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”

B. He experienced what we experience and understands us.

C. He kept the law for us and made righteousness available.

D. He died for our sins and made forgiveness available.

1. *We can be saved and go to Heaven.*
2. *We can have victory over sin now.*

E. He arose from the dead and now intercedes for us in Heaven.

F. He promised to return to this earth.

G. He removed all neutrality toward God among men.

Luke 9:50, “And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us.”

No birth has affected the world like the birth of Jesus Christ. But for His birth to have its full impact upon your life today two things must be true. First, “You must be born again.” Jesus died and rose again for you so that you can be saved. Secondly, after you are saved, you must surrender your life fully to Him as Lord. Only then can you enjoy the full benefit of His coming to this world.

Pilate asked, “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?” **Will you receive Him as Saviour?** You cannot be neutral. It is yes or no. You can believe on Him and be saved. You must not deny Him His rightful place in your life. **Will you submit your life to Him?**