

## **12.02.18 ~ "Born to Die..."**

Christmas celebrates God's greatest Gift to the world, but God's gift (Jesus Christ) was not fully understood or realized until He was unwrapped at the Cross.

About 2700 years ago, two of God's prophets (Isaiah & Micah) wrote about the future birth of a male child, to a virgin, in Bethlehem, in Judea; this child would be Immanuel, God in the flesh, Jesus the Christ, God's Salvation, and He would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus came to pay the penalty for sin for all people, by His own death on the cross; three days later He rose from the dead providing eternal life to all who believe in Him.

**Micah 5:2**, "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... 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."

**Isaiah 7:14**, "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 9:6**, "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."

See **Isaiah 53:4-7, 11-12...**

**Read Hebrews 1:1-3...**

**Hebrews 1:1...** God repeatedly announced to the world the coming of His Son. He did this using a wide variety of people, languages, places, events, ceremonies, and covenants, in order to present His plan and purpose through Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 1:2a...** "In these last days", since Jesus came, God "has spoken to us in His Son," i.e., God fully revealed all we need to know and do, concerning God's greatest gift, His Own Son.

Jesus' birth happened just as God had announced through the prophets, everything being made ready for the advent of God's Son, at just the right time (**Galatians 4:4-5**), "when the time had fully come (i.e., at just the right time), God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

*Politically* – Rome as world Ruler, provided good roads and a time of relative peace; the message of Christ could be taken to the rest of the world.

*Culturally* – The world's people were more educated and unified, even common people spoke Koine Greek.

*Spiritually* – The world was more accepting of a wide variety of religious philosophies; and the Jews had a renewed interest in the OT Scriptures that pointed to the Messiah, God's One and Only Son.

Israel had been waiting for God's Messiah; God had repeatedly announced His coming giving special details about His arrival, and then God delivered Him, just as He had said it would happen (cf Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2), after which (**Luke 2:52**), "And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

As Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John (**Luke 3:22**), God declared from heaven, "You are My Son, whom I love, with You I am well pleased."

**Hebrews 1:2b...** God appointed His Son "heir of all things, it was through Him that the world was made."

Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the Creator and the Ruler of everything.

**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."

In **Revelation 5**, John records God sitting on His throne in heaven, with a scroll in His hand (the deed to the earth and everything on it). No one is worthy to take the scroll and open it, but then (**verse 5**), John says, "one of the elders said to me, 'Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.'" **Verses 6-7**, "Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne... He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne." At that point a new song is sung in heaven (**verse 9**), "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

God sent Jesus (**Colossians 1:20**), "to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

God's plan was to provide forgiveness for sins through the shed blood of His One and Only Son.

**Hebrews 1:3a...** Christ is "the radiance of God's glory" (lit. "brightness") meaning Jesus is the Light of God, sent to mankind. "Light" is the revelation that brings "Life from God" to all who are being saved.

**John 1:1-2**, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God."

**John 1:4-5**, "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overpower] it."

**John 8:12**, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

**1John 1:5**, "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

**Hebrews 1:3b...** Christ is "the exact representation [icon or imprint] of God's nature," in fact, (**Colossians 1:15**), "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation," (**Colossians 2:9**), "in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."

Jesus is the express image of God [in human flesh] and without Him we could not see or be exposed to God's light, let alone could we receive life from God.

**Hebrews 1:3c...** God's Son sustains [i.e., upholds or maintains] all things by His own power.

He created the heavens and all that is in them, which includes the earth upon which we live, which hangs in space just the right distance from the moon and the sun, tilted at precisely 23.5 degrees, so that its whole surface receives the sun's rays, as the earth is revolving at 1,000 mph, making one complete rotation every 24 hours; and at the same time it is traveling at 67,000 mph in an orbit around the sun every 365 days.

Thank God for His marvelous provision in Christ, as Paul says (**Colossians 1:17**), "He [Jesus Christ] is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

**Hebrews 1:3d...** God's Son cleansed us of sin's penalty and then He sat down at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Wow! Jesus Christ fulfilled His sovereign work by taking the punishment for our sins, upon Himself (**Hebrews 9:12**), "through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."

Jesus was born in a stable, raised in obscurity, healed the multitudes, was put to death on a cross, yet on the third day He rose from the grave and began to show Himself to His followers, and 40 days later went up into heaven, to the highest place of honor (**Hebrews 10:12**) "having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God."

700 years after Isaiah and Micah foretold it, a young woman, named Mary, said to be a virgin, gave birth to a male child in Bethlehem, in Judea; the baby was named Jesus [*God's Salvation*], and was called Immanuel [*God with us*], for He was God in the flesh, and Savior to all who will believe in Him.

The final message from God is that His own Son was born in the flesh of a man for the purpose of dying for the sins of all mankind.

Christmas is about God's indescribable Gift: Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was born for the purpose of giving His own life for our sins, so that everyone who repents of sin, believing in Him, receives eternal life.

**Revelation 1:8**, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Revelation 1:17-18**, "I am the first and the last, the living One; I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

**1John 5:11-13**, "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

If you have received Jesus as Savior and Lord, you know the reason for Christmas; but if you have never repented of your sins, confessing Jesus as Lord and believing in Him as Savior, why not do it right now? This is the most important decision of your life.

Do not enter this Christmas season without making sure you belong God through the Christ of Christmas.

The reason for the season is Jesus. Christmas is in honor and worship of Him, for He is God's magnificent, merciful, indescribable, irrevocable, sovereign, and supernatural Gift: Jesus Christ, crucified, resurrected and coming again.

*Pastor Mike*  
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