

## Preached on 12/11/22 at GBC - Ruston

### "A Child Born - A Son GIVEN, Pt.1"

Isa.9:6,7

After reading all the material I could find on this chapter, I carefully thought about how I wanted to open this message. **One thought** kept coming into my mind: Every justified sinner, those redeemed through Christ's person and His work as their Substitute and Surety, their minds **SHOULD** and **MUST** be constantly fixed on **EVERY ASPECT** of the **PERSON** and **WORK** of the God sent Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. David declared: "*Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*" (Ps.73:25) The Prophet Isaiah declared: "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*"(Isa.26:3) By **every aspect**, I mean Christ's **BIRTH**, His life, His death, and His resurrection. All are equally essential and eternally important.

I know we are heading into the heart of what people call the "Christmas season". It's in this particular season the religious world gets so caught up with the birth of Christ. They speak about Him as God's greatest gift, **WHICH HE TRULY IS THE GREATEST GIFT FOR HIS PEOPLE**. They speak about this particular day, **Dec.25th**, as "Jesus' birthday", thinking they are honoring Him by wishing Him "happy birthday". Tragically most don't have a clue concerning the significance of what occurred in this event that was purposed by God in eternity and prophesied hundreds of years before it occurred. **I do know from what is set forth in the New Testament** that belief in the incarnation and birth of Christ is absolutely essential to true conversion - "*Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit (literally, SOUL) that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*"(I Jn.4:2,3) This monumental event prophesied by Isaiah and others is **about much more** than the historical birth of a child to a young virgin mother. This miraculous birth was **absolutely essential** to Messiah's makeup as our Redeemer, Savior, and Mediator - "*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*"(Jn.18:37) "*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.*"(Gal.4:4,5)

**Let's begin by asking and answering a question:** What is **SO IMPORTANT** about the birth or the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ? **Think back with me to our days in false religion**. Do you ever remember anybody **STRESSING** or **SEEKING** to teach the **NECESSITY** of this miraculous conception? I know they told us about His name: "*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.*"(Matt.1:23) They called it: **THE CHRISTMAS STORY**. In reality, about the only time you ever heard mention of Christ's birth was during the Christmas holidays - **REMEMBER!!!!** These two verses in Isaiah and the promise they convey reveal to us the glorious nature and importance of the incarnation of Christ. Notice Isaiah's words - "*For unto US a child is born, unto US a Son is given.*" This "**child is born**" and this "**Son is given**" is

"unto US" or **FOR US**, meaning for His church in every generation. **Listen closely:** God **DID NOT GIVE** His Son for every, single, solitary sinner that was ever to be born. The Scriptures are quite clear - "*As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: **AND I LAY DOWN MY LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.***"(Jn.10:15) When Christ assumed our nature, according to Isaiah's prophecy, He assumed it from His birth. **Why was that necessary?** Listen to the explanation Christ gave: "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*" (Matt.5:17,18) According to the writer of Hebrews every moment of Messiah's life was absolutely essential for those He represented - "*Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, **to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.***"(Heb.2:17) From the very moment of His birth, our Lord began fulfilling every "jot and tittle" of God's law and justice on behalf of all those He represented - **ELABORATE.** All of His obedience to God's law was not for Himself, but as the Surety and Substitute for His people. Isaiah declared of Christ – "*The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make [it] honourable.*"(Isa.42:21) **Listen to a literal translation of this verse** – "Jehovah hath delight for the sake of His righteousness, He magnifieth law, and maketh honourable." The first Adam, by his transgression against God's revealed will, plunged all those he represented, **INCLUDING GOD'S ELECT**, into sin and condemnation. Therefore it was necessary that the **LAST ADAM**, the Lord Jesus Christ, as God-man, render perfect satisfaction to God's law and justice **FOR ALL THOSE HE REPRESENTED** – "*That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*"(Rom.5:19) This **PERSON**, Messiah, couldn't be the seed of man, possessing a sinful Adamic nature. Our salvation required the infinite wisdom and power of almighty God to create Christ's sinless humanity in the womb of the virgin Mary, fulfilling the very first promise of "*the woman's seed*" in **Gen.3:15** - "*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.*"(Matt.1:18) "*And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*"(Lk.1:35) This is the meaning of Isaiah's words: "*a child is born*". It speaks of Christ's humanity, that which He would willingly offer, both body and soul, to the Father as a sacrifice for sin. We read of this miraculous creation every time we take the Lord's Table – Turn to **Heb.10:5-10**.

But the Holy Spirit moved Isaiah to continue, declaring: "*Unto us a Son is given*". **Let me try to make this as clear as I possibly can:** The Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, came into this world of His own voluntary free will at the call of the Father. But God the Father who called and appointed Christ as Mediator for His people, also **GAVE** Christ, His "*only begotten Son*", "*unto*" or **FOR** His people. These two blessed truths, "*a child born*" and "*a Son given*" **show us the Divine union of Christ's sinless humanity with His eternal Diety.** It is **ONLY** as God-man that Christ is qualified and equipped to be the Redeemer of His people - "*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **Who gave HIMSELF a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***"(I Tim.2:5,6) God the Father's free-will offering of His only begotten Son was **absolutely essential and necessary in order to give eternal value and efficacy to everything the God sent Christ wrought by His obedience unto death.** The true and living God's appointment of Christ (God-Man) as Mediator

and Surety for His people is the **ONLY HOPE AND CAUSE** of every true believer's acceptance before God – *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [the sins of] the whole world.”(I Jn.2:1,2)* While the sinless humanity of Christ came into existence in time when it was formed in the womb of the virgin Mary, this One Isaiah referred to as *“a Son given”* is none other than eternal God, the second person of the Trinity, **ONE** with the Father and the Holy Spirit - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”(John 1:1,2)* That’s the reason we read **Prov.9** in the **CALL TO WORSHIP**. **Turn back over to Prov.9:22-31**. This truth was declared by the Angel to Joseph in a dream after the conception of Christ's humanity – *“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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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.”(Matt.1:20-23)* This Holy union of sinless humanity and the eternal Deity of God's *“only-begotten Son”*, which is the God sent Christ, is seen and believed on as both Lord and Savior by **ALL THOSE** called of God. I can't help but think of Simeon - **Turn to Lk.2:25-32**. It was **ONLY** this person, the Lord Jesus Christ, sent by the Father, Who was both willing and able, that **COULD** and **DID** *“save His people from their sins.”* Christ's **DIVINITY** gave eternal value to Christ's perfect obedience as our Surety, as well as to Christ's sacrificial death in our place as our Substitute and Redeemer - *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”(Heb.9:14)* Look over at Heb.13:20,21. One more verse: *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”(I Tim.3:16)*

The glory of this person is confirmed by those things that are written concerning Him in the remaining part of these verses - *“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. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

We'll come back and deal with these words concerning Messiah next Sunday. In closing let me say this: God's children should constantly, **AND NOT JUST IN WHAT MAN CALLS THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**, think about the marvelous gift of Christ, Messiah, as both "given" by God and "sent" to do everything necessary to guarantee the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophesy concerning the **ONE TRUE CHRIST**.