

**Subject: *The Birth of Jesus Christ***

**Scripture: *Matthew 1:18-24***

The birth of Christ was a monumental event. It was the greatest event in human history up until that time. This was no ordinary birth. His birth was unlike any other. The world has never been the same since Christ was born. This is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Christ's birth is the reason for the season. We are going to look at some familiar Scripture and may God open our spiritual eyes to understand the blessings of His birth.

### **1. The surprising news of his birth (vs. 18-19)**

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married, but they were not living together as husband and wife. During their engagement period they were surprised to find out that Mary was going to have a baby. It was shocking news.

Verse 19 tells us that Joseph was a righteous man and didn't want to disgrace Mary and make her a public example, so he was thinking about breaking off their engagement secretly to avoid the shame and scandal it would cause. God intervened and Joseph had a dream in which an angel appeared to him and told him not to do that, but to go ahead and marry her.

### **2. The supernatural plan of his birth (vs. 20)**

Mary's baby was conceived in a supernatural way by the Holy Spirit. "Supernatural" means something above and beyond the natural or normal way that a baby is conceived. Jesus was conceived in a miraculous way. We call it the Virgin Birth (vs. 18, 20, 23). It is described in more detail in the Gospel of Luke.

#### ***Luke 1:26-38***

The text makes it clear that Joseph and Mary were engaged, but not married and living together. In verse 27 (2 times) Mary is called a virgin (a woman who has never been married). In verse 34, Mary was puzzled and troubled and she asked the angel Gabriel, "How can I have a baby boy since I don't have a husband?" In verse 35, we see Gabriel's answer, and this is as much as we can know. There is an element of mystery here, but this much is sure...the Holy Spirit came upon Mary so that she was able to have the baby. But this was not just any baby. He was a baby unlike any other, a baby who is the Son of God (vs. 32, 35). This baby was born to be a king and His kingdom would have no end.

In Matthew 1:23, we read that the birth of Christ fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah.

***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.*

Matthew tells us the name "Immanuel" means "God with us." This baby was God Himself. You would expect if God was to come into this world as a baby, He would come in a special way, and He did. The birth of Christ was a supernatural birth.

### **3. The saving purpose of his birth (vs. 21)**

Christ was a supernatural baby who was born for a special purpose. When a baby is born the parents look at him or her and think, "I wonder what he or she will grow up to be?" Mary knew what Jesus would be. She didn't have to wonder. He came to be the Savior sent from God the Father to save His people from their sins. The name "Jesus" means "Savior."

Christ was born to meet our greatest need, to be saved from our sins. Only Christ can save us. No one else can save us and we can't save ourselves. No other man who was ever born could save us from our sins. All other men were sinners who needed a savior, and none of them was qualified to save anybody.

Many prophets had preached and told the people about a coming Savior, but none of them could save a single person. No prophet told the people to look to them for salvation. Many priests had lived and served. They all offered sacrifices for sin, but none of them could ever take away sins. The priests did their job, but they could not provide salvation. Christ was the only one who could save His people from their sins, as the writer of Hebrews states.

***Hebrews 7:23-27***

At the heart of this passage we read in verse 25, "Wherefore he (Christ) is able also to save them to the uttermost."

Many verses echo this wonderful truth that Christ is the only One who can save us.

***Isaiah 45:22*** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Only God can save us, and Christ is God in human flesh.

***Luke 19:10*** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

***Acts 4:12*** Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

***Acts 16:31*** Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house.

***2 Timothy 3:15*** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Christ alone can save us. He saves His people from their sins. That means He saves us from the penalty of sin (justification), from the power of sin (sanctification), and from the presence and possibility of sin in heaven (glorification).

This is why we celebrate Christ's birth: the surprising news of his birth; the supernatural plan of his birth; and the saving purpose birth.