

Text: Luke 2: 1-16

Intro: Christmas, though it has been much corrupted and commercialized over the years, is still a somewhat pleasant time out at the end of the year, although the women who have been doing all this meal preparation and cookie-making and buying all the gifts, etc., etc., may beg to differ that it is a time out. But it is a time when our focus changes from the daily routine. It's a time when, even if only out of dutiful habit, people seem to focus on others a little bit more than at other times of the year.

Christmas has largely become synonymous with giving. That is as it should be. After all, it was God's loving gift of His Son that is supposed to be the reason for the season. For this reason, I think we need to take care to keep the emphasis on giving instead of getting, on Christ instead of Christmas... presents or parties or mere celebration; even "church activities can get in the way of just quietly getting in your closet and considering Christ.

In dealing with the topic of Christ's birth today, you will probably hear things that are not unlike what you have heard in years past. However, I want us to pause for a while to thoughtfully consider the Christ of Christmas.

Consider the fact that Christ was:

## I. BORN AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME

Gal.4: 4 "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,"

A. The words "the fullness of the time" make reference "to that time when the world was providentially ready for the birth of the Savior."

B. God is always on time. The birth of Christ took place at just the right time. From a historical and practical perspective, Christ could not have not have been born into the world at a more opportune period.

This period of time was when the Roman civilization had brought peace and a road system which facilitated travel; when Grecian civilization provided a language which was adopted as the lingua franca (universal or common language) of the empire.

C. Not only was the birth of Jesus on God's timetable, but also He lived out His whole life on God's schedule. Daniel 9: 25 tells us that there would be 483 years between the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, which took place in 445 B.C., and the advent of "Messiah the Prince." In A.D. 32 Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem—exactly 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

So, God sent His Son into the world at just the right time. That ultimate truth is undisputable, because the timing of all things is based on God's wishes. But even with what we can readily see historically, we can see that this is true.

## II. BORN THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE PERSON

### A. The Messiah's Birth via a Virgin Was Foretold:

Luke 1: 28 "And the angel came in unto her (Mary), and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

Isa.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."

Luke 1: 26-31 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,  
27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.  
30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus."

### B. He came In the Flesh...he was born a human being

Literally, "en-flesh-ment" (Latin *carnis*—"flesh"); the doctrine that the Son of God became human (John 1:14). Jesus did not play at becoming a man but took on our flesh with all its problems and weaknesses. Incarnation, in the Christian understanding, means that Christ was both God and human.

C. The angel Gabriel not only predicted that the virgin, Mary, would bear a son, but also told her what His name would be. That name indicated what His ministry would be, that being to save His people. The name, Jesus, is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name "Joshua," meaning "Jehovah is salvation."

### D. The Messiah's Birth via a Virgin Was Fulfilled:

Matt.1: 18 "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."

Luke 2: 6-7 "And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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.”

Speaking of the virgin birth, It has always been amazing to me that many of those who have trouble believing that God could make Jesus be born of a virgin, can so easily and readily accept without question the idea that man evolved from the apes. Does that not seem a bit ironic?

### III. BORN AT AN APPOINTED PLACE

#### A. Christ’s Birth in Bethlehem Was Propheesied in Scripture.

Micah 5: 2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, 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.”

NOTE: [1] Both Isaiah and Micah agreed that the Messiah would one day be the ruler of Israel.

1a. Isaiah said, “...the government shall be upon his shoulder...” (Isa.9: 6b).

1b. Micah said, “...yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel...” (Micah 5: 2a).

[2] Micah’s prophecy was literally fulfilled according to Luke 2: 4-7. As a matter of fact, when Herod inquired of the priests and the scribes about the birthplace of the Messiah, they quoted to him Micah 5: 2 (Matt.2: 3-6).

### IV. BORN FOR AN AMAZING PURPOSE

#### A. He Would Be Crucified For Our Sins.

John 3: 14 “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:”

Gal.3: 13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

#### B. He Would Complete Our Salvation.

Acts 5: 30-31 “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”

I Pet.3:18a "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."

Folks, the bottom line is that Jesus Christ was born to die, and died that we might live. He was exactly what we needed, how we needed it and when we needed it. I found this on-line and I don't know the author, but I think the following says it best:

#### Our Greatest Need

- If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.
- If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.
- If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.
- If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.
- But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior. (Author Unknown)<sup>11</sup>

So, in summary, Consider the fact that Christ was:

I. BORN AT THE RIGHT TIME

II. BORN THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE PERSON

III. BORN AT THE APPOINTED PLACE

IV. BORN FOR AN AMAZING PURPOSE

My hope, my Elder's admonition to each of us, is that we would stop to consider, REALLY stop to consider the significance of the birth of Christ in relation to our need and God's provision. May we weigh these things today, the rest of this Christmas season, and throughout the upcoming year.