

1 | LUKE 2:1-11

JEHOVAH, ADONIA, ELOHIM IS BORN

Christmas Message

Introduction

Open your Bible **Luke 2:1-11**. The title of the message this morning is “Jehovah, Adonai, Elohim is Born”. I want you to see today that the babe that was born in Bethlehem was none other than the Creator of the Universe, the God of the Old Testament, the Lord of Glory. In that manger the one true God was born, Adonai, Elohim, the second Person of the Triune God!

Let’s see this in **Luke 2:1-11**, “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 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. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 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. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

We need to ask ourselves the question “Who is Jesus”? Who was it that was born to die? It was the Creator of the Universe, Jehovah of the Old Testament. Yahweh, the Lord of Hosts was born to the virgin in Bethlehem. The Jehovah of the Old Testament is presented in the New Testament as being a triune God; therefore, the title Jehovah can refer to any member of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I want to show you specifically today how Jesus Christ and the writers of the New Testament declare that Jesus Christ is the Jehovah of the Old Testament come in human flesh.

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT PREDICTED GOD WOULD BE BORN AS MAN.

A. The Old Testament predicted that God would be born physically.

Isaiah said a child would be born of a virgin who would be called “the Mighty God” (the mighty *El* or *Elohim*, la)¹ (**Isaiah 9:6**). He is called “Emmanuel”, or “God with us” (**Isaiah 7:14**).

¹ From Strong’s Concordance, number 0410.

Micah prophesied there would be a ruler born in Bethlehem “whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (**Micah 5:2**).

Isaiah tells us that God will come into the world in **Isaiah 40:3**, and that John the Baptist will make a highway for him, “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” The glory of the LORD is revealed, for as **John 1:14** says, “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”.

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Isaiah tells of the good news, the Gospel that God would enter into the world in **Isaiah 40:9**, “O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!”

B. The New Testament records the fulfillment of these prophecies.

1. Listen to the **Apostles**.

Paul tells us plainly in **1 Timothy 3:16** that “God was manifest in the flesh”. He says in **Galatians 4:4-5**, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law”.

John 1:1-3, 14 says,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made”... and **verse 14**, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth”.

2. Listen to **Jesus** Himself. He said in **John 8:58**, “Before Abraham was, I am”. He said in **John 10:30**, “I and my Father are one,” and they took up stones to put him to death because he “made himself equal with God”. In **John 14:10** He said, “I am in the Father, and the Father in me”. He says in **John 17:5**, “And now, O Father,

² Ibid.

glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” By His own testimony, Jesus Christ is God robed in a human body.

2. JESUS IS CALLED JEHOVAH.

First I want you to see Isaiah’s Old Testament vision of the **exalted Christ**.

In **Isaiah 6**, Isaiah records His encounter with Jehovah of the Old Testament. He says in **verse 1**, “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.” He says in **verse 3** the angels cried out and said, “Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” He tells of his response to all this in **verse 5**, “Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah had seen the God of the universe in this vision.

In **John 12:41**, John the apostle refers to this same incident, and he writes that Isaiah saw Christ’s “glory, and spake of him”. Isaiah spoke of Jehovah, and the apostle John says, this Christ is the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

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Jesus is Jehovah, the **“I AM”**, of the Old Testament.

When Moses at the burning bush asked God what His name was, the Lord replied to Moses, “I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:14). Literally translated, the title Jehovah is “I AM THAT I AM”. In other words, God says to Moses, “I am the self existent one”. I have no beginning or cause. I am the everlasting Almighty God.

To the Jewish mind, it would be the height of blasphemy and insanity to take this title to yourself. This title belonged to only One Person, the true and living God. If God were to come to earth, you would expect Him to claim this title for Himself. And He does in **John 8:58**. He says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." The people pick up stones to stone him because being man, he made himself "equal with God".

Titles reserved for Jehovah are applied to Christ in the New Testament.

The **First and the Last**. **Isaiah 44:6**, "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts [Jehovah Sabaoth]; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God." In **Revelation 1:8**, the one who was pierced and the one who is coming in the clouds in the Second coming (Christ) says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty". Actually, four times in the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ claims the title "the first and the last" (**Revelation 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13**).

The **Saviour**. In **Isaiah 43:10-11**, the LORD says, "before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour." Did you realize the title "Saviour" is reserved in Scripture for God alone?

This is why Paul, when he wrote to Titus, said that we should be "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (**Titus 2:13**).

Jesus claimed to be the exclusive Savior and way to heaven. He said in **John 14:6**, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The Old Testament prophets would say that whosoever calls on Jehovah would be saved. They are clear that there is salvation in no one else but Jehovah God.

Jonah said in **Jonah 2:9**, "Salvation is of the LORD [JEHOVAH]."

Joel says in **Joel 2:32**: "Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD [JEHOVAH] shall be [saved]."

In **Romans 10:13** Paul quotes this passage, applying the title *Jehovah* to Christ.

On the Day of Pentecost, in **Acts 2:21**, *Peter* quotes Joel directly and says "whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." He then urges everyone there to put their faith in Jesus Christ of Nazareth. His obvious point to these men is that Jesus Christ is Yahweh of the Old Testament come in the flesh.

Peter says again in **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.”

There is only one Saviour, and it is Jehovah, and He has come in the flesh.

The **Pierced One**. In **Zechariah 12:10**, Jehovah says, “they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”, and in **John 19:37**, John says that Jesus Christ as fulfilled this prophecy.

3. JESUS CHRIST HAS ALL THE INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

Christ is described in **Hebrews 1:3** as “being the brightness of [GOD’S] glory, and the express image [NATURE] of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power”. He said in **John 14:1**, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” Paul said, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily” (**Colossians 2:9**). Therefore, we would expect for Jesus to have all the attributes of God, and He does. Now these are attributes that none of us can have. We can be like God in some ways. He says, be pure as I am pure. We are to love as He loved. We are to be merciful as he is merciful. But God never calls us to be all powerful or all knowing or omnipresent or eternal or self existing. No, these are attributes of God that cannot be transferred to men. Yet Jesus Christ of Nazareth had them all. He said, “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (**John 14:9**).

A. As God, Christ is **eternal**. In **Revelation 1:8**, Christ says, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”. He says in **John 17:5**, “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

B. As God, Jesus Christ is **omnipresent**. He says in **Matthew 18:20**, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”; and in **Matthew 28:20**, He promised, “Lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the world.” He promises to be everywhere at once with each of His children when he says, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” (**Hebrews 13:5**).

C. As Jehovah God Christ knows everything. He’s **omniscient**. Christ never met a person he didn’t already know. He already knew all about the people he would meet for the first time.

1. His disciples confessed on several occasions that Christ knew all things (**John 16:30; 21:17**).
2. He told Nathaniel “I saw you sitting under the fig tree”, when Jesus was at a completely different location. Same thing with the Samaritan woman. He knew all about her immoral life before He even met her. He had never seen her before, but he

planned to meet her. He said, “We must needs go through Samaria”. In **John 4:25-26**, the woman was astounded at Christ’s omniscience and she said, “I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*”. She goes into her city and tells all the people, “Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” Only God knows all the things you and I have ever done. And Christ as God knows everything about us.

3. On five occasions, the Bible says that Jesus knew what people were thinking (**Matthew 9:4; 12:25; Luke 5:22; 6:8; 11:17; cf. John 2:25**). He had the ability at any time and know the heart of any man.

D. As God, Christ is **omnipotent**. He says “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (**Matthew 28:18**). When Jesus spoke, the creation obeyed His voice, and the disciples asked, “What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (**Mark 4:41**). As God He has power over life and death. He said to His disciples in **Luke 10:19**, “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you”.

He says in **John 5:22**, “the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son”.

This one who was born with the animals and laid in a cow’s trough, is the one who will one day destroy use His omnipotent power to destroy the world.

John says:

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (**Revelation 1:7**).

Paul says:

Christ is coming “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Peter says:

“the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”.

John tells us that when Jesus comes again, His power will be so unfathomable that:

“the heaven will depart as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island will be moved out of their places” (**Revelation 6:14**).

E. As Jehovah God, Jesus Christ is **immutable**—He never changes! **Hebrews 13:8** is a familiar declaration of the immutability of Christ: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today, and forever.”

4. JESUS FUNCTIONS AS GOD ON EARTH.

A. He receives glory and honor and worship as God.

God will share his glory with no one. He says in **Isaiah 42:8**, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another", yet Christ said in **John 17:5**, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." In **John 5:23**, He says, "all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

He makes it clear that denying Him is the equivalent of denying Almighty God. **Matthew 10:33**, "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

In glory, the Lamb and the Father will receive worship together. We read in **Revelation 5:13**, "And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

Jesus told his disciples in **John 14:1**, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

On five occasions Jesus received the worship of his disciples.

1. After Jesus showed divine control over the wind and the sea, the Bible records in **Matthew 14:33**, "they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God."
2. After Jesus showed the divine power to create sight in a blind man, we read in **John 9:38**—"And [the man born blind] said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he **worshipped Him.**"
3. After Christ was raised from the dead, the women were greeted by Jesus and "they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him" (**Matthew 28:9**).
4. Again after Christ was risen, we read of Christ's disciples in **Matthew 28:17**, "And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."
5. Thomas after seeing the risen Lord said in **John 20:28-29**, "said unto him, My Lord and my God." And what was our Lord's response to Thomas proclaiming Him to be God? **Verse 29**, "Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

6. The Roman soldiers who came to arrest him fell back when He proclaimed His title as Jehovah. **John 18:6**, “As soon then as he had said unto them, I am *he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”
7. Also, the Roman soldiers who guarded Christ’s tomb fell before Him as dead when He came alive from the tomb in His glory! They saw that Adonai—Elohim, their Creator!

Application: It’s fine to consider that Christ received worship, but the question is, do *you* worship Him? Is Christ your Lord and your God?

Transition: So Christ functioned as God on earth. He received worship. But also...

- B. Jesus Christ **forgives** sins. In **Mark 2:5**, Jesus heals a crippled man and tells him that all his sins are forgiven—wiped away! We read in verses 6-7, “But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, 7 Why doth this *man* thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?” Exactly!
- C. Christ grants **eternal life**. He says in **John 10:27-28**, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand” (cf. **Luke 10:22**).

Christ says in **John 3:36**, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Jesus claimed to be the exclusive way to eternal life. He said in **John 14:6**, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

- D. Christ does miracles.
 1. He raises the dead.
 2. He heals the lame.
 3. He creates eyes for the blind.
 4. He makes the lame to walk again.
 5. He raises people from the dead.
 6. The elements obeyed Him.
 7. He turned water into wine.
 8. He walked on water!
- E. Christ has the power to raise the dead and judge final judgment. In **John 5:22**, Jesus said, “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.” That is a very explicit claim of deity. **Acts 10:42** says Christ “has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.” Acts 17:31 says the same thing. **2 Timothy 4:1** says “Christ Jesus...is to judge the living and the dead.”

Conclusion

C. S. Lewis, the famous British author said, “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

Christ is either a liar, a madman, or else He is the Lord of glory. “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!” Jehovah, the Father’s Redeemer, the LORD of hosts was born!

Now why would the God of the universe come to be born? **Luke 19:10**, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Are you lost today? Do you need Christ?

The great God of the universe was born—He was born to die. They took Him and beat His back bloody. A more brutal form of death has never been seen in the history of the world. The God who receives the worship from angels came to earth to die for you! Your sin is that great! Have you given your life to Him?

Philippians 2:6-11 says that Christ, “being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Every knee will bow to this one who was born in Bethlehem. He was born King of the Jews. Is He *your* King? Is He your Master?