

What Does the Birth of Jesus Mean?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Luke 2 tells of the birth of Jesus

1. miraculously to a virgin named Mary engaged to a man named Joseph
2. in Bethlehem, the home of David
3. in the most humble of circumstances, in a stable, because there was no room in the inn

B. But it also tells of a miraculous vision to humble shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem

1. Suddenly, an angel appeared before them (v. 2), who started off by saying, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
2. Good thing the angel said, "Do not be afraid," because then a multitude of the heavenly host appeared all praising God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."
3. By the way, if you were ever looking for a good reason to celebrate Christmas, this would be a fairly good one — if the angels celebrated, it would probably be OK for us to do so, too.
4. But my point here is that something significant was happening that caused the angelic host to whoop it up!
5. What was it? What did the birth of this child really mean?

C. On the one hand, most of us know the short version

1. But in the midst of all the chaos, decorating, family gatherings, friend gatherings, office gatherings, shopping, and gift giving of the season *we might not think much about it*
2. When I ask the 3 - 5 year olds what Christmas is all about, they usually mention Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and presents
3. So, let's talk about what it means

II. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES (BOTH GOOD AND BAD)

A. God is not like human beings,

1. whose promises may or may not be sincere,
2. but who may or may not be able to deliver on what has been promised

B. What God promises *ALWAYS* comes to pass

1. at the fall of mankind (Gen. 3:15) He promised a Messiah
 - a) who would be born the seed of a woman
 - b) who would crush the head of Satan

2. And throughout the rest of the OT, He reminded us, gave us further information about it, and even gave a timeframe
3. And sure enough, God, *WHO CANNOT LIE*, kept His word

C. Which has personal application to you and me

1. When others ask, or when we wonder, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation,” —
 - a) Remember that Jesus came just as God promised
 - b) God always keeps His promises
2. When we wonder if my sins — all my sins — could really have been forgiven...
 - a) Remember that Jesus came just as God promised
 - b) God always keeps His promises
3. When we wonder, if God will really deal justice to those who have harmed us — “For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,” (2 Th. 1:6)
 - a) Remember that Jesus came just as God promised
 - b) God always keeps His promises
4. If we wonder whether God will really condemn unbelievers or those who have fallen away, or whether the Lord will reward the faithful and repentant with Heaven
 - a) Remember that Jesus came just as God promised
 - b) God always keeps His promises
5. Paul put it this way in 2 Cor. 1:20 — **“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.”**

D. The birth of Jesus shows us that God always keeps His promises — that’s why the angels celebrated

III. GOD LOVES THE WORLD (INCLUDING YOU)

- A. John 3:16 is the world’s most famous passage of Scripture; yet, there are many who would doubt it
1. When sorrow comes our way and wonder how God could let this happen
 2. When we pray and God says no
 3. When we fall grievously into sin and feel like there’s no recovery
 4. When we feel like “nobody” or just “worthless”
 5. When we are suffering and wonder if God cares
 6. ...we may doubt it
- B. But this passage, which has direct connection to the meaning of Jesus’ birth, reminds us that...
1. God loved us, each of us, enough to send His Son into this world to...
 - a) empty Himself of the privileges of equality with the Father
 - b) condescend to live as a human

- c) condescend to live, not as a prince or child of privilege, but of the poor
 - d) experience the full raft of human struggle, suffering, sorrow, sickness, grief, and pain
 - e) finally to die the humiliating and exquisitely painful death of a cross
 - f) all for those who Paul rightly identified as those who has rejected God, disobeyed Him, enemies
 - g) with no guarantee that anyone would believe and turn and be reconciled to Him
2. And all done **not** because the Father or the Son were *obligated* to do so
 3. But because they LOVED you, and me, and all of us to this **amazing degree**

C. So never doubt God's love for you...

1. ...no matter the circumstances,
2. God has proven His love in the birth of Jesus — that's why the angels celebrated

IV. WE HAVE "... A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD."

A. These words are familiar to us, but what do they really mean?

1. A Savior rescues, from enemies
2. Christ means "anointed" or someone designated by God
 - a) as king
 - b) as priest
 - c) as prophet
3. So this child Jesus was to be the world's God-designated Savior

B. Jesus is God's Anointed Rescuer to...

1. A messed up world — from sinful behavior
2. The estranged from God — Redeemer, Reconciler
3. The rightfully condemned — from the consequences of our sinful lives,
 - a) by dying in our place for things we've done —
 - b) real forgiveness of sin
4. Those who continue to mess up — Compassionate Mediator
 - a) having returned to sit at the right hand of God, He is now the perfect high priest and mediator for us,
 - b) understanding every temptation we endure, yet without sin
5. All men destined to die — Firstborn from among the dead (resurrection)
 - a) He is our Rescuer from death itself!
 - b) His resurrection proves there is life after death
 - c) and that He **IS** the key to it
6. **In other words**, in Him salvation, real forgiveness, and eternal life are now available

C. We have "...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." — that's why the angels celebrated

V. CONCLUSION

- A. There is plenty to celebrate with the angels at the birth of Jesus — it was incredibly significant!!
 - 1. God keeps His promises (both good and bad)
 - 2. God loves the world (including you)
 - 3. We have "... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- B. But there is warning here, too
 - 1. Because God does keep both his good and bad promises
 - 2. Because God's love includes allowing us to decide where we will spend eternity
 - 3. Because Jesus is the only way to Heaven

- C. If you are not yet a Christian...
 - 1. Believe in this wonderful Savior, Jesus
 - 2. Listen to His word
 - 3. Repent of your sins
 - 4. Obey Him in baptism today

- D. If you are a Christian and need to return to the Savior of your soul
 - 1. Today, if you hear his voice
 - 2. Today is the day of salvation
 - 3. Come