

12.20.20 ~ The Advent of God's Son

See **Matthew 1**... Matthew's main purpose is to declare Jesus as the Messiah [the Christ], a descendant of David:

Matthew 1:1... "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David.

Matthew 1:17... There are three 14 generational periods of Jewish history recorded:

1. Abraham to David (**vv. 2-6**).
2. David to Babylonian captivity (**vv. 7-11**).
3. Babylonian captivity to the time of Christ (**vv. 12-16**).

Matthew traces Christ's genealogy from Abraham, through David's son Solomon (cf. **Matthew 1:6**), to Jacob (cf. **Matthew 1:16**), "the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah." The synonym "by whom," is in the feminine singular, indicating that Jesus was born of Mary, not Joseph and Mary, thus proclaiming the virgin birth.

Joseph, who would be the legal father of Jesus, was from the bloodline of David, but Mary must also be a descendant of David, in order to that Jesus be of the royal bloodline, giving Him the right to sit on the throne of David (**Luke 3:23**), "When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli [Heli]."

Joseph was the son-in-law of Eli, Mary's father, meaning that Mary was also from the bloodline of David, but through David's son Nathan (cf. **Luke 3:31**).

Long before the birth of Jesus, some Rabbis wrote, "The Messiah is to have no earthly father; His birth will be like that of no other man." And that is exactly how Jesus was conceived--apart from any human action, or will; this was done by God. Read **Matthew 1:18-21**... Mary's conception by the Holy Spirit is a great mystery. She was a virgin yet she was pregnant (**Isaiah 7:14**), "the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.

Joseph and Mary were pledged to be married at the time of the angel's announcement, and therefore Joseph, an honorable man, had a big problem, Mary was pregnant and it wasn't his child.

Jesus is never directly called the son of Joseph, and Joseph is never directly called His father; and yet, there is no evidence that Joseph ever felt anger or bitterness toward Mary (**Matthew 1:19**) "not wanting to disgrace her, [Joseph] planned to send her away secretly; i.e., he didn't want to shame her publicly by exposing her condition, but instead would give her a decree of divorce, so she could go away quietly.

An angel announces to Joseph, that Mary's pregnancy is from God, and will be a son. Joseph (although not the biological father) will have the responsibility to name the baby (**Matthew 1:21**), "you shall call His name Jesus [God's Salvation], for He

will save His people from their sins." Jesus will be the only source of salvation for the whole world, for all of eternity, and Joseph will raise Him as his own son. Read **Matthew 1:22-23**... The virgin birth was predicted in the OT. "All this" refers to specific facts about the birth of Jesus, as foretold by Isaiah and Micah (700 B.C.); the greatest sign from God to all men is that Jesus was, "God with us: God in the flesh" (**Colossians 2:9**), "the fullness of God in bodily form."

Matthew 1:24-25... Joseph was awakened from his sleep and did just as the angel told him. Joseph took Mary home as his wife, and kept her a virgin until the birth of Jesus. However, Mary did not remain a virgin, for Jesus had other brothers and sisters who were conceived naturally through Joseph (**Matthew 13:54-56**), "He [Jesus] came to His hometown and *began* teaching them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, 'Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom and *these* miraculous powers? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?'"

The supernatural birth of Jesus validates His divinity; Christ the Savior was conceived in the womb of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was born to a virgin in a place where animals were sheltered; He grew up in an average home, learning the trade of carpentry; when He was about 33 years old, He was arrested and crucified, because He claimed to be God (**John 10:30; 14:7, 9**); but on the third day after His burial, eyewitnesses (soldiers guarding His tomb) reported that He came out of the grave, alive.

All this happened just as Jesus had repeatedly told His followers it would (cf. **Matthew 16:21; Mark 8:31; Luke 18:31-34**).

Christmas is not just another holiday! Jesus Christ is not just another Jewish male baby born in Bethlehem, He is the Savior. He alone was the fullness of God in human flesh: He came to us, because we could not go to Him.

Christmas is in celebration of Christ's birth; Easter is in celebration of His death and resurrection; Sunday is set apart each week specifically for the worship and honor of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

Our calendar designates all history before His coming as B.C. [before Christ] and all history after His coming as A.D. [Anno Domini = "in the year of the Lord"].

This child, born to a virgin through the divine plan and power of God, is God's One and Only Son. His birth was a sign from Almighty God! To misread/reject this sign will bring eternal consequences: **John 3:16**, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life," (**John 3:36**), "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Jesus is the Reason for the Season, you cannot celebrate Christmas appropriately without knowing God's One and Only Plan, Provision, and Promise by which we receive forgiveness for sins and eternal life.

Read **Luke 2:1-7...** Joseph took Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to register in the town of his ancestors, according to the census being taken. While they were there, it came time for the baby to be born, since they could find no place to stay, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son, and placed Him in a manger.

Read **Luke 2:8-20...** An angel of the Lord appeared to some shepherds, announcing the birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord. The angel said God would validate this marvelous event with a sign (**verse 12**), the baby would be wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

A large number of angels appeared praising God, the shepherds then went to Bethlehem to see all God had done, and there they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus who was lying in a manger, just as they were told.

Shepherds were near the bottom of the Jewish social order, for they couldn't keep the religious rituals and ceremonies. Isn't it amazing, that out of all the people in and around Jerusalem, God chose a small band of shepherds to be the ones to witness the birth of His Son, who would be (**John 10:11**), "the Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for His sheep," and (**1Peter 5:4**), "the Chief Shepherd, to whom we all will give an account."

After looking upon the baby Jesus, **Luke 2:18** says the shepherds went out into the streets, sharing the good news that the Savior had indeed been born.

Luke 2:19 says, "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," all these things meaning: the angel's announcement about her Holy conception, Joseph's response to this news, Elizabeth's marvelous greeting, and the very special names "Jesus" and "Immanuel," to be given to her baby boy!

Luke 2:20 tells us the shepherds, "returned (most likely to their flocks), glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Jesus came to earth the first time, in the flesh of a helpless baby boy; the next time, He will come as a Warrior, the Eternal King, Sovereign Lord, and Righteous Judge over All (cf **Revelation 19:11-16**).

When Jesus came to earth the first time, there was no available room for Him to be born in; and yet, He told His disciples (**John 14:1-3**), "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."

Revelation 21:1-5a, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready

as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the [dwelling place] of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.'

And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Only a few shepherds witnessed the first coming of Jesus; but when He returns to earth again, everyone in the world will see Him (cf. **Revelation 1:7**).

More books and song lyrics have been written about, and more paintings have been done of, Jesus, than any other person in history. The world's calendar dating system (B.C., A.D.), two major holidays (Christmas, Easter), the first day of every week (Sunday), and the praise and worship of 2.2 billion followers (out of the world's 7.8 billion people) declares that this Jesus is indeed very, very, special.

Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."

At just the right time, according to God's plan, purpose, provision, and power, God put on the flesh of a son of man, in order to provide payment for our sins by the sacrifice of Himself, in order that we might become the children of God.

1John 3:1, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

If you have never trusted in Jesus Christ to save you, do it now, He turns no one away. Jesus Christ, the Savior, came to earth in the flesh of a baby; grew up in obscurity, and at about 30 years of age began to heal the sick, set prisoners free, and raise the dead; about three years later He was put to death on a cross, because He claimed to be God; He was then placed in a tomb, but on the third day after His death, eye witnesses said He came out of the grave alive (just like He had said that He would), victorious over sin, death and judgement, forever, (**2Corinthians 9:15**), "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

Christmas is about Jesus: He is the Reason for the Season!

Christmas is in honor and worship of the Holy One from God, who has already come and is coming again for those who belong to Him, those on whom His favor rests, those whose hope is in God's Son for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life, to all of you I want to wish a very **Merry Christmas!**

Pastor Mike
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