

THE BIRTH OF JESUS **(Matthew 1:18-23)**

I. His birth was promised by God.

- A. The first time we read of a promise of One coming from God it is just after the worst event in the history of mankind.
 - 1. Eve had given in to the serpent's temptation and Adam followed along with it.
 - 2. God pronounced judgment upon both them and the serpent.
 - 3. God then made this wonderful statement (Genesis 3:15).
- B. Later, a man named Abram was chosen by God to be the patriarch of a group of special people.
- C. God called Abram to depart from his home, family and friends because the idolatry of the day was growing.
- D. To entice Abram to do such, God made three promises to Abram (Genesis 12:1-3):
 - 1. He promised Abram's posterity land;
 - 2. He promised Abram a great posterity;
 - 3. He promised that through Abram, all the nations of the earth would be blessed.
- E. It is this last promise that we are discussing now.
- F. This promise would be reiterated to Abram other times as well.
- G. Not only that, it was promised to Isaac, Abram's son (Genesis 26:2-4), as well as his son Jacob (Genesis 28:13-14).
- H. Later, God would promise to another descendant of Abram, David, that through him One would come who would rule and bless the earth (2 Samuel 7:12-16).
- I. God Himself promised the coming of One who would be special and that through whom all the earth would be blessed.

II. His birth was prophesied by godly men.

- A. When God promises something, those who have faith in Him believe the promise and tell others about it.
- B. This is exactly what happened with God's promise of One coming to bless mankind.
- C. Jacob told Judah a Lawgiver would come through him (Genesis 49:10).
 - 1. This tells us that the one coming would be born into the tribe of Judah.
 - 2. With the promise made to David, we have that promise from God since David was of the tribe of Judah.
- D. Moses promised a Prophet like him would come (Deuteronomy 18:15-18).
- E. Isaiah promised a virgin would bring forth a son (Isaiah 7:14).
- F. Isaiah also promised that this One coming would have several roles that He would fill (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- G. Micah promised the birth of this special child in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- H. These were men like us who showed great trust in God and His promises.
 - 1. Because of their trust in God they were chosen by God to reveal

different aspects of the special One who was coming.

2. All of these taken together point to Jesus as the Son of God and easily identifiable as such.

III. His birth was pronounced by angels.

- A. On the day of the birth of Jesus, an angel made a great pronouncement to a group of shepherds in a field near Bethlehem (Luke 2:8-12).
- B. As soon as this pronouncement was made, a group of angels joined in chorus to sing a welcome to the newborn child (Luke 2:13-14).
- C. There have been a lot of birth announcements over the years.
 1. None have been more glorious than this.
 2. This tells us that this birth was something special to get this kind of announcement.

IV. His birth has been preserved by inspiration.

- A. The wonderful thing about this birth is that we can know it is true.
- B. God inspired men to write these prophecies and events down so that we can have a completely accurate and faith-inspiring record of them (2 Peter 1:21).
 1. We don't have to have any doubts about the things written.
 2. All came from God (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- C. Sadly, many question the virgin birth of Christ.
 1. They can't believe it because without the power of God it is impossible.
 2. However, Isaiah prophesied it.
 3. The angel that spoke to both Mary and Joseph said it would take place.
 4. God inspired men to write it, thus we don't have to have any doubts as to the accuracy of the account..
- D. When you look at the birth of Isaac, we get a preview of sorts of the birth of Christ.
 1. Both were foretold by God.
 2. Both involved a miraculous conception.
 3. Both were the only begotten sons of their fathers.
- E. There are most definitely differences but we can believe both because the human penman of each of the accounts was being moved, borne along, by the Holy Spirit to write exactly what happened.

V. His birth was prompted by love.

- A. If we don't take anything else away from this sermon, we need to make sure we get this point.
- B. If God didn't love us, Jesus would never have come into the world.
- C. John 3:16 - God gave His Son out of love.
- D. Romans 5:8 - God showed His love by allowing His Son to die, who could not have died if He had never been born into this world.
- E. God loves the soul of each individual and wants no souls to be lost for eternity.
 1. Because of this love for us, He willingly gave His Son for us.
 2. He planned for Him to be born of the seed of woman (Galatians

- 4:4).
- 3. He planned for Him to be like us (Philippians 2:5-8).
- 4. He planned for Him to die (Romans 5:8).
- F. All of this was prompted by God's love for His special creation.