

THE BIRTH OF JESUS ITS UNIQUENESS AND PURPOSE

Matt 1:18 - 2:23; Lk 1:25-56; 3:1-40

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A child once ask me why I did not preach about Jesus during this season of the year and I decided to do so.
- B. At this time of year we and especially our young children are bombarded on every side with depictions of Jesus' birth
- C. In many instances, false teaching is done in regard to Jesus' birth, not just among denominations, but also among those who claim to be members of the Lord's church
- D. While the birth of Jesus is not the event that receives the greatest attention in the Scriptures (only 2 of the Gospels record the birth, but all 4 record his death burial and resurrection) his birth is unique in many ways and we need to understand the truth about it.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS' BIRTH

- A. Planned from the beginning Gen 3:15
- B. One of a kind - virgin birth Matt 1:23
- C. Conceived of the Holy Ghost Matt 1:20; He was God in the flesh 1Tim 3:16
- D. Prophesied Isa 9:6: Place Mic 5:2; Manner Isa 7:14; Time Dan 2:44
- E. Announced by angels to shepherds in the field
- F. Was accompanied by a star in heaven
- G. Star directed Wise Men to place where Jesus was

II. SOME COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT HIS BIRTH

- A. No angels present at Jesus' birth
 1. Angels did herald His birth
 2. Went to heaven before shepherds went to Bethlehem
- B. Shepherds found Jesus in the manger not the wise men
- C. Wise men found Jesus in a house Matt 2:11 and the number of wise men is not revealed
- D. By comparing Lk 2 & Matt 2 we can determine that Jesus was probably about two months old when the wise men came and may even have been in Jerusalem and not Bethlehem when they arrived from the east
- E. December 25 as Jesus' birthday was set by a Bishop of Rome in 354 AD. The Bible does not reveal the day
- F. The common manger scene that we see depicted today was first introduced by St. Francis in 1224 AD
- G. As important and significant as the birth of Jesus was, it is not as important and significant to the world as his death burial and resurrection

1. Our dating system shows the importance the world attaches to His birth (B.C. = before Christ) (A.D. = Anno Domini, "in the year of our Lord")
2. Remember only 2 of the Gospels record the events of His birth while all 4 record His death, burial and resurrection.

III. PURPOSE OF BIRTH SHOWN IN DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION Matt 1:21; Heb 9:11-15; 10:5

- A. Four books record the memorial of his death: the Lord's Supper Matt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:19,20; 1Cor 11:23-25
- B. Early Christians remembered His death on the first day of the week Acts 20:7
 1. From this remembrance we may receive the highest blessings and greatest condemnation 1Cor 11:26,27
 2. We must recognize the significance of His death (the reason for His birth) and observe as directed
- C. Note what is involved in this observance:
 1. We commemorate (remember) His death, burial and resurrection Lk 22:19, heart of Gospel 1Cor 15:1-4
 2. We have communion or share in the death of our Lord 1Cor 10:16; Note Paul's argument about eating meat uniting eater with idol 1Cor 10:14-19
 3. Lord's supper is a proclamation of Christ's death 1Cor 11:26. Each time we observe, we preach a sermon on the death of Christ
 4. It is a feast of dedication 1Cor 11:25 - Covenant has to do with the sealing or ratifying of an agreement – we agree to keep the New Covenant
 5. It is a feast of anticipation 1Cor 11:26. We look forward with hope of the second coming of Jesus. This supper spans the gulf between His first and second coming

CONCLUSION:

- A. Yes the birth of Jesus is important, because without His birth we could not have His death, which is so important to the world.
- B. Without His death, burial and resurrection we would have no hope of eternal life
- C. Realizing what Bible says, which one would you rather observe as a RELIGIOUS holiday (holy day); the day of His birth (Bible reveals nothing regarding Christians observing) or His death, burial and resurrection which we are taught to remember and observe each first day of the week?
- D. Whatever observance you do on Dec 25 make sure it is not a religious observance.