

Christmas: Why Was Jesus Born? To Give You a Brand New Life

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I. Introduction

Did you know that Jesus has been part of mankind's existence from the very beginning? He was there when we were first created. He was there when we ruined His creation and our relationship with Him. He was there for every wicked and disappointing decision we made. All the while He kept promising that one day He would come to our rescue, that God would become flesh, destroy our enemy, and restore our rightful place by His side.

II. Christmas: Why Jesus Wasn't Just Another Baby Born Into This World

What is the Bible and what does Jesus have to do with it? In a short video titled "What is the Bible Project?" thebibleproject.com explains what the Bible is: it's a book that contains God's story. This is why the Bible reads like a story. When you turn to the first page, how does the story begin, "In the beginning..." (Genesis 1:1). And when you turn to the last page you see how the story ends, "And they shall reign forever and ever..." (Revelation 22:5). What's this story about? It's about how God invited us to rule over this world alongside Him as His beloved children, how we then ruined that relationship, and how He's restoring that relationship through His Son Jesus Christ. This is why the central character of the entire Bible is Jesus; the whole Bible is about Jesus and how He restores us and our relationship with God (Luke 24:25-27, 44-47; John 5:39). The Bible may be hard to understand sometimes, but everything in the Bible is about this grand story; every piece explains this story.

Our story began in the Garden of Eden, where God invited us to rule alongside Him (Genesis 1:28). But we were soon deceived by Satan to rule on our own, to be our own god and make our own decisions apart God (Genesis 3:1-7). But Jesus Christ, who was there with us from the very beginning, who created everything in this universe (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16), who built our own private home known as the Garden of Eden, didn't turn His back on us. Instead, He sought to rescue us, to restore us and our relationship with Him. So instead of condemning us, He sought once again to walk alongside us (Genesis 3:8-9). And He informed us that one day God would send a Savior whom He called the Seed to rescue us, to defeat Satan, our enemy, once and for all (Genesis 3:15). The Seed would be one of Eve's descendants which is why Eve thought that her firstborn was that Savior (Genesis 4:1—notice that she knew that He wouldn't just be human but God Himself). Seeing the wicked behavior of her son Cain, Eve kept looking for this Seed in her other sons and saw Seth as the one to carry the Seed line (cf. Luke 3:38). Eventually God promised that this Seed would come from the nation of Israel, i.e., through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:3; 13:15; 26:3; 28:13-14; Galatians 3:16), specifically the Seed would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Ezekiel 21:27). When king David—who's from the tribe of Judah—came along, God promised him that this Seed, God's Anointed one, His Messiah, would come from him and He would rule over the world from David's throne forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16, cf. Luke 1:31-33).

Along the way God promised that this Messiah, this Christ, would be born from a virgin in the town of Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2;) and when He was finally born this is exactly how He came into the world, through a virgin named Mary (Matthew 1:18-2:1) and His lineage was traced all the way back to king David, Abraham, and Adam (Matthew 1: 1-16; Luke 3:23-38).

Why did God become flesh? Jesus' birth on Christmas Day is miraculous not just because He was born of a virgin, which is miraculous enough. How can you have a baby without a father? That's impossible. In fact, if Jesus' father was human, then Jesus would've been just another sinful human like the rest of us (C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus is either a Lunatic, Liar, or Lord of all). But His father wasn't human; His Father was God and this is why Jesus' birth was so miraculous. When Jesus was born it wasn't just that no male was involved, it's that God, the Creator of the entire universe, became flesh! This meant that Jesus wasn't just another human baby born into this world. It meant that Jesus was the Son of God and thereby the fulfilment of every prophecy uttered by God about the Seed, the One who was to come to rescue the world, e.g., Isaiah 9:6-7—the Seed, the Messiah, the Christ whom God promised would not just be human but Mighty God, the Prince who would bring peace to mankind.

But why would the Son of God choose to leave heaven and all His glory behind in order to go from deity to human flesh? If you saw someone you dearly loved in danger of being devastated for all eternity, what would you do? Jesus' love (John 15:13) wouldn't let Him stand idly by and do nothing; He had to do something to rescue us and so He did. Jesus stepping into this world of flesh through a virgin birth meant that one day He would have to die a horrible death in order to reunite us to Himself, to restore the relationship we had with Him in the beginning so that we could walk with Him once again. But this time He united us permanently to Himself (Ephesians 2:5-6) and thereby gave us part of Himself, a part that goes with us wherever we go—His Spirit (Galatians 4:6).

What Jesus wanted for us is a brand new life, a new way of life where every decision we made was the right one, every thought, every word, every action was the right one because we were in constant contact with Him and His Father. They would be in us and we would be in Him (John 17:3, 20-26). This is why everywhere Jesus went He brought life back into people's lives. Why did He heal all those people; why did He bring them back to life (Mark 1:32-34, 40-45; 2:2:1-12; 5:21-43)? Because He wanted us to have life, but not the same old life we once had; He wanted us to have a brand new life, an awesome life, an abundant life with Him (John 10:10).

Does Jesus' birth really mean a new life for us? Can Jesus really deliver on His promise to give you a brand new life where every decision you make is the right one, every thought, every word, every action is the right one? Yes! Jesus has a brilliant way of setting things that are so broken right again....a friend struggles with a terrible dilemma involving his siblings, his mother, money, in-fighting, anger, yelling, hurt feelings, etc., etc. But then Jesus speaks and this friend finds peace in the midst of this devastating family chaos.

III. Conclusion

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."