

The Truth About the Birth of Christ

www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: What do you think of when you read about the birth of Christ?

- A. Without question the arrival of the Son of God in a human form was a great event.
 - 1. There is no surprise that men would want to celebrate this event.
 - 2. But where does God Himself give emphasis? What should we celebrate?
 - 3. We should be very familiar with these great events for our good!
- B. Every aspect of the life of Christ was foretold by the prophets. **(Lk 24:44)**
 - 1. We who wear the name of Christ need to know the one whom we serve.
 - 2. If we know Him then we will do only those things He directs. **(Col 3:17)**

I. The Birth of Christ was not the Beginning of Jesus

- A. Jesus did not have a beginning.
 - 1. Some have tried to argue from this verse that He did. **(Col 1:15)**
 - 2. If they would read the next verses they would understand that all created things were made by God! Jesus is the creator! **(Col 1:16-18)**
- B. Jesus did have a beginning as a man. His body had a beginning!
 - 1. In this sense He is also called the “firstborn.” **(Heb 1:6; 10:5)**
 - 2. God became man! Jesus as God had no beginning. There is a time however where God became man.
 - 3. This is a staggering thought. What would it be like for God to become man? Men have struggled with this and many do not know Him. **(Jn 1:10-12)**

II. The Uniqueness of the Birth of Christ

- A. The birth of Christ involved some of the greatest promises of the Old Testament.
 - 1. There was the future destruction of Satan through the “seed” of Eve. **(Gen 3:15)**
 - 2. The great promises to Abraham set the course for the rest of the Bible which includes the birth of Christ. **(Gen 12:1-3)**
 - 3. The promise of the future messiah to David depended upon the birth of Christ. **(Psa 132:11)**
- B. There were detailed prophecies of this birth.
 - 1. There was the specific place of His birth. **(Mic 5:2)**
 - 2. The virgin birth was in prophecy. **(Isa 7:14)**
 - 3. Even the time of His birth was shown to be in the times of the Roman kingdom. **(Dan 7:7, 16-17, 23, 27; 2:44)**
- C. Mary and Joseph were first made aware of His coming birth.
 - 1. She had to tell Joseph about her child and then wait for the Lord to inform him.
 - a. This was a test for Joseph too. **(Mt 1:18-25)**
 - b. Do you have a faith that will “wait on the Lord?” **(Psa 37:7-9)**
 - 2. She later had to watch Him die.
 - a. God through Simeon had warned her of this occasion. **(Lk 2:34-35)**
 - b. Could you have done this? **(Jn 19:25-27)**
- D. There was the heavenly announcement of it to the shepherds. **(Lk 2:8-15)**
 - 1. Why announce it here? Why not to the religious rulers?

2. Remember that God revealed the time and place at His choosing. When Herod thought he knew of a coming king, see what he did. **(Mt 2:1-12)**
 3. We need God's help to know for certain when a prophecy has been fulfilled.
- E. There was the incredible fact that God Himself became man. **(Jn 1:14; 1-3)**
1. Our God came to this world in a barnyard.
 2. All of these things contain great lessons for us.

III. Three Questions for us to consider

- A. Why did God become man? **(Heb 2:9-15)**
1. Jesus provided an escape from Satan than man could not provide himself.
 2. Jesus became a man to share with us in temptation and to lead the way.
 3. He became our high priest that we can boldly go to. **(Heb 2:16-17; 4:14-16)**
 4. Without a doubt we know the answer to the question: "Does Jesus Care?"
- B. When was Jesus born?
1. We do not know the year or the day! Some suggest 3-4 BC.
 2. We know it was not in December. Bethlehem is the same latitude of Montgomery, AL or Jackson, MS. They would not be out at night with the sheep at this time of year.
 3. The Catholic Church took the heathen day of observance of the winter solstice and declared December 25 as the day. (The solstice indicated the Sun was reviving after the shortest day, Dec. 21. There was much drunkenness and revelry during this time.)
- C. How are we to celebrate the birth of Christ?
1. When a birthday is held to honor someone you see what their wishes are.
 2. Jesus gave no instructions whatsoever about celebrating His birth.
 3. There is not one word from the apostles or the early church about this matter.

III. There is a celebration we are to keep.

- A. Christians were commanded to meet on every first day of the week. **(1 Cor 16:1-2; Acts 20:7)**
1. In the writings of the early Christians they met on the first day of the week.
 2. What Paul commanded Corinth, he commanded all other churches. **(1 Cor 4:17)**
- B. Why did they meet on this day?
1. They were remembering the birth of Christ!
 2. This was not the first birth but the second. **(Acts 13:30-34; Col 1:18)**
- C. Can you not see that the second birth is of far greater importance than the first?
1. God gave us details about the second birth. We know the day!
 2. The apostles began immediately to observe the first day of the week. The events on the day of Pentecost occurred on the first day of the week. **(Acts 2:42)**
 3. This should be observed weekly, not yearly, monthly or quarterly.
 4. Is it not sad that men will observe things He does not ask but will not observe the things He does command us to!

Conclusion: What is your birthday?