

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

DECEMBER 25, 2023

We begin this morning by going back in history, not just going back to the time of Jesus Christ's incarnation, but all the way back to heaven when everything was gloriously perfect. Innumerable angels served and worshiped God the Son who created them. Of course heaven is a wonderful magnificent place which is indescribably beautiful. Love permeated heaven like the water covers the oceans.

Everything was perfect and pleasant; a place where sin does not exist. It's hard for us to imagine such a place but that is what our Lord Jesus Christ left to come to earth which is saturated with sin, evil, and pain. The One who is sovereign over the whole world humbled Himself to become a man who is lower than angels, to voluntarily be humiliated, tortured, and die on a cross.

He would have to suffer the undiluted fierce wrath of God the Father's judgment on sin in His own body. What could possibly motivate Him to do such a thing? It could be nothing less than His astonishing love for us, as well as for all mankind.

Our Savior would have to be equal with God and equal with man in order to be the perfect mediator between God and man. He would have to be true deity and true humanity united in one person forever. This is called the Hypostatic Union

If we had the responsibility to plan how the God of the universe would come to earth to be born, we would choose Him to be born in greatest hotel in the world. We would make sure that He would have the best security, the best doctors, and we would make sure that everyone would know that the Son of God had come to earth and we would make this event to be as grandiose as possible.

Of course God's way was just the opposite. There was no room for Joseph, Mary, and our Lord in any motel or home. Jesus was born in a stable with animals standing around.

The Bible says that Jesus was born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Read: ([Matthew 1:18-25](#))

Matthew 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

How did Mary find out how she would become the mother of the humanity of Jesus Christ ([Luke 1:26-38](#)).

Luke 1:26-38 ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. ³² "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶ "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ "For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

It is important to know that Jesus Christ could not have a human father. Why? Because a husband passes on the old sin nature through his seed to the children. Obtaining an old sin nature through the seed of Joseph would have disqualified Jesus from being the perfect sacrifice on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

REASONS FOR CHRIST'S INCARNATION, HIS BIRTH

1. To reveal the invisible God, John 1:18; 14:9.
2. To fulfill prophecy, Gen. 3:15.
3. To be raised from the dead to give us hope of our resurrection, Romans 6:5
4. To make a sacrifice for our sins, Heb. 2:9; 10:4–5, 10, 12; 1 John 3:5; Mark 10:45.
5. To provide an example for believers, 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 John 2:6.
6. To become merciful and faithful high priest, Heb. 2:17; 4:15-16.
7. To destroy the devil and his works, Heb. 2:14; 1 John 3:8.
8. To be a perfect mediator between God and man, 1 Timothy 2:5.
9. To appear in the presence of God to make intercession for us, Heb. 9:24.
10. To become our advocate with the Father when we sin, 1 John 2:1.
11. To give us the abundant life, John 10:10.
12. To glorify the Father, John 13:31; 14:13; 17:4.

THE SUSTAINING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

During the period of the First Advent, the humanity of Christ was sustained by the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit. The humanity of Christ voluntarily agreed to be empowered by God the Holy Spirit rather than His own divine power.

Why did Christ rely on the Holy Spirit, rather than His own divinity? It was for us! He was an example to us to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. If He could thrive under the constant attacks from Satan, then certainly we can rely on the Holy Spirit to give us the power we need to live the spiritual life.

Jesus Christ is true royalty as King of kings and Lord of lords and He relied on the Holy Spirit. We are also true royalty by our identification with Him and our dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

An angel spoke to Joseph in a dream saying, “...***that which has been conceived in her (Mary) is of the Holy Spirit.***” **Matthew 1:20**

The Holy Spirit is the source or agent of conception. The Holy Spirit was the agent carrying out the mechanics of the virgin birth.