

The Biblical Explanation of the Incarnation

Introduction

- A. Historical events are evaluated on the basis of their importance. The Incarnation stands out like a mountain peak in history. Nothing can compare with this event except, perhaps – the Crucifixion or the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. In Galatians 4:4,5 the apostle Paul gives an inspired commentary on the meaning of the birth of Jesus Christ.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to rjedeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. »

I. The Glorious Plan.

But when the fulness of the time was come

Comment: The historical events surrounding the birth of the Lord Jesus reminds us how God was in control. He brought the known world under the dominion of one nation (Rome) and thereby made travel possible and safe, He caused all the known world to use one language (Greek), brought the religions of that day into a period of bankruptcy (Eric Sauer, The Dawn...), as well as the various philosophies (W.T.Stace, A Critical...), heightened the expectation of a coming Messiah (Dead Sea Scrolls), taught the non-Jewish nations regarding the birth of the Savior (Wise Men), and He also caused the star of Bethlehem to appear. Such evidence of God's plan was all preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

II. The Glorious Gift.

God sent forth his Son

Comment: As with historical events, gifts are evaluated according to a variety of standards. It is not unusual at Christmas time to receive a valuable gift – not perhaps in the monetary sense – but because of other reasons. How are we to judge the worth of the gift stated in our text? Our problem is not in understanding the excellence, quality, and/or value of the Lord Jesus, but it has to do with the standard. With whom or what can we compare Him? Perhaps the best we can do, although we are not satisfied with it, is to say, "No greater gift could be given."

III. The Glorious Mystery.

Made of a woman . . .

Comment: This event is beyond our comprehension. That the eternal and infinite God, the Creator of all things, would become a member of the human race — remaining fully God and becoming fully man— is truly a mystery. The record reminds us that Mary was enabled to conceive and could give to the Lord Jesus a human nature and body because of the work of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). The writer of Hebrews stated that the Savior was made "like unto his brethren" (2:17). The Lord Jesus became a member of our race so He could die as our Substitute.

IV. The Glorious Obligation.

Made under the law

Comment: The Lord Jesus was born to reverse our fallen and sinful condition. We are unrighteous (Rom. 3:10) because we did not obey God's law, and we are sinful (Rom. 3:23) because we transgressed His law. The Savior came to reverse that condition. He obeyed the law for us and died under its penalty. Since His work was that of a substitute and of infinite worth — all who ! believe upon Him as Lord and Savior are given the value of His atonement. Every believer is therefore declared to be fully righteous (Rom. 5:1) and fully forgiven (Col. 2:13).

V. The Glorious Purpose.

To redeem them that were under the law

Comment: The word "redeem" means "to buy with the purpose to set free." In this passage it describes the work of the Lord Jesus as well as the benefits which are given to each believer. Sin always enslaves a person and brings death. Only the Lord Jesus could redeem us (pay the price for freedom). Every believer can and should say, "I have been redeemed by Jesus Christ."

VI. The Glorious Privilege.

That we might receive the adoption of sons

Comment: There is no greater privilege than to know the adoption stated in this text. Every Christian was adopted at the moment of the new birth. We have every legal right to all the provision made for us by the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:3; II Peter 1:3). The Savior was born into the world and died for us that we might know this greatest of all relationships. Every believer should respond to this with a life of gratitude, worship, and daily obedience.

Conclusion: While we look back in history to the birth of the Savior, the benefits of His birth are a practical part of our daily life, and they will be throughout eternity.

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