

## The Importance and Meaning of the Incarnation

### Introduction

- A. One of the most unique features of Christianity is the relationship of the supernatural and the historical. God has not only revealed Himself but He has done so within the time-space-events of the race.
- B. An unusual illustration of this truth is the birth of Jesus Christ. It is overwhelming to realize that the eternal Son of God became a member of the race that He had created - by a supernatural act.
- C. The Scripture utilizes the words "born" or "birth" to designate this historical event. I have listed below some of these verses.

#### I. His Unusual Birth was in Harmony with the Greatness of His Person.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Observation: Here we are taught that the eternal Son of God was born into our race. It is significant how the verse emphasizes that truth by stating "the son is given" in "the child being born." The prophecy regarding "government" indicates His sovereign control of all things. His various names remind us, not only of His deity, but His greatness as the God-man.

#### II. His Unusual Birth was Brought About by a Supernatural Act.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise. When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18

Observation: This testimony to the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus explains how He could be a member of our race and not be sinful. Through the work of the Holy Spirit Mary was enabled to conceive with the Savior becoming the person of the child she produced. In not being represented in Adam (Rom. 5:12) the Lord Jesus did not inherit the sinfulness of the Fall.

#### III. His Unusual Birth was Accompanied by Remarkable Events.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King Of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Matthew 2:1,2

Observation: The coming of the wise men indicated an expectation of the Savior's birth that must have been due to the presence of the Jewish people, in the east, through the Exile. The men spoke of "his star" and called Him the "King of the Jews." All of this caused the people of Jerusalem, and Herod in particular to be "troubled" V3. From the viewpoint of the Bible this was what would be expected when the eternal God was to take upon Himself human nature.

IV. His Unusual Birth was a Demonstration of Divine Power.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee, therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God . . . for with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:34-37

Observation: In human thinking the event before us would be the height of impossibility - but not with God. Since He is all-powerful and created the race, the Incarnation simply manifested and explained His wisdom, sovereignty, and power.

V. His Unusual Birth was Used by the Angel to Explain the Titles of the Savior.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10,11

Observation: The reason why the shepherds were told not to be afraid is due to the greatness of the One Whose birth they announced. He was born to be a Savior (a Deliverer from the penalty and power of sin, from spiritual and physical death, from the bondage to Satan, and from hell). He could be this because He was both "Christ" (the Old Testament promised Messiah), and "the Lord" (God Himself). In a moment like this we spontaneously ask, "Why did He come?" The answer is simple: He loved us!

VI. His Unusual Birth was Directly Related to the Truth.

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. John 18:37

Observation: Our Savior was born our prophet. When we turned away from God in the Fall we largely lost the knowledge we possessed. One of the great goals of His birth and ministry was to live and speak the Word of God again to us. His very birth attests to His love our need, His provision, and the overwhelming importance of the spiritual. How difficult it is to accept this - even now.

VII. His Unusual Birth had a Redemptive Purpose.

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born Under the law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Galatians 4:4,5

Observation: These verses reminds us of God's timetable, the description of the Incarnation, and the purpose behind it all. In His sovereignty God arranged history for the maximum benefit of the Savior's birth. In His historical entrance into our time and space He assumed the responsibility of the law which we failed to keep and transgressed - all so we may be delivered. This calls for our response - repentance, faith, and thanksgiving.