

The *Spiritual*
Significance of the
Birth of Jesus

WHY?

J E S U S
the Baby

Luke 2:1-20



Events surrounding the Birth

- **The Announcement**
- **The virgin birth**
- **Visit of the shepherds and wise men**
- **Reactions to the Birth of Jesus**

JESUS
the Baby

Luke 2:1-20



Tonight at 5:00 p.m.

THE TRANSFIGURATION

MARK 9:2-9

Luke 9:28-36

New Beginnings for a New Year



Lessons from the way God dealt with His people on New Year's Day from the OT.

DEC 29, 2013
10:30 A.M.

Welcome from the Kirkland church family!

“Born to belong to each other”



September 8, 2013

The Announcement (Lk 1:26-38)

- **Angel Gabriel** – “hero of God”
 - Name: **Jesus**
 - “Jehovah saves” -- **Purpose!**
 - “Be great, sit on David’s throne”
 - Jesus **Christ** (Gk), **Messiah** (Heb)
- **The “Magnificat” Lk 1:46-55**



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

The Virgin Birth (Lk 1:24)

- **Mary – “How can this be?”**
 - Fulfills *prophecy* – Isa 7:14
 - Be a *sign* - to Mary & humanity!
 - Proof of His **Divinity** – Lk 1:35



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Not the only proof of Divinity

SON OF GOD

VIRGIN BIRTH

Lk 1:35

RESURRECTION

Rm 1:4

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Enabled the Perfect Mediator

MEDIATOR

SON OF MAN

Lk 19:10

SON OF GOD

LK 9:20

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Enabled the Perfect Mediator

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus . . .” I TIM 2:5



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Enabled Him to be the Perfect H.P.

Heb 4:15-16

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Enabled the Perfect Mediator

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14-15).

Immanuel = *God with us*

Isa 7:14 & Matt 1:23

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Visit of the shepherds and wise men

- Separate appearances.
 - Shepherds = manger (Lk 2:7-20)
 - Wise men = *house* (Matt 2:9-11).
- Whom do they represent?
 - Shepherds = “common people”
 - Wise men = Gentiles!



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Traditional Nativity Scene



St. Francis -1221 AD

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

ERRORS IN TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE

- Separate appearances
- Not necessarily three wise men.
- Shepherds did not bring gifts.



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Gifts of the Magi Fulfill Isa 60:6

“Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come, bearing
gold and incense and proclaiming the
praise of the Lord (NIV).



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Three Gifts of the Magi

- Significance?

- *Gold* – Gift of Royalty – King.

- *Frankincense and Myrrh* – Priest's offering.

- Gentiles: Accept Jesus as their **KING PRIEST!**



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Shepherds are out in the fields watching flocks (Lk 2:8).

Albert Barnes:

–“Judean shepherds during the summer months spend the night with their flocks in the fields, but by October they bring their sheep in and no longer stay with them. **It is highly unlikely Jesus was born on Dec 25 or any winter month.**”

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

ERRORS IN TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE

- Separate appearances
- Not necessarily three wise men.
- Shepherds did not bring gifts.
- Not 12/25 or any winter month!



Spiritual Significance of the Birth

Where did 12/25 come from?

- **Encyclopedia Britannica**
 - Liberius, Bishop of Rome, 354 AD
- **Catholic Dictionary**
 - “It was the birthday of the unconquered sun, we changed it to the birthday of the unconquered son.”

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

REACTIONS TO BIRTH

- Joseph and Mary – Lk 1:26-38, Mt 1:18-21
 - **CONFUSION.....**
- Innkeeper – Lk 2:7
 - **NO ROOM**
- Shepherds – Lk 2:8-17
 - **CURIOSITY**

Spiritual Significance of the Birth

REACTIONS TO BIRTH

- Herod the Great – Matt 2:1-18
– **HATRED**
- Wise Men – Mt 2:1-12
– **ADORING WORSHIP**

**WHAT IS YOUR
REACTION?**

Spiritual Significance of the Birth