The *Spiritual Significance* of the Birth of Jesus



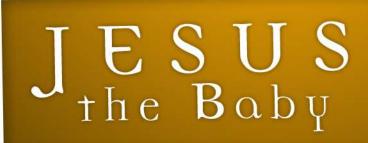


Luke 2:1-20

Events surrounding the Birth

- The Announcement
- The virgin birth

- Visit of the shepherds and wise men
- **Reactions to the Birth of Jesus**





Tonight at 5:00 p.m.

TRANSFIGUR ATION 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.



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

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

Not the only proof of Divinity

SON OF GOD



Enabled the Perfect Mediator





Enabled the Perfect Mediator

"For there is one God, and one *mediator* also between God and men, the <u>man</u> Christ Jesus . . ." I TIM 2:5

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."

Enabled the Perfect Mediator

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

Immanuel = God with us Isa 7:14 & Matt 1:23

Visit of the shepherds and wise men

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

Traditional Nativity Scene



St. Francis -1221 AD

ERRORS IN TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE

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

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).



Three Gifts of the Magi

 Significance? -Gold - Gift of Royalty - King. -Frankincense and Myrrh -Priest's offering. -Gentiles: Accept Jesus as their **KING PRIEST!**

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."

ERRORS IN TRADITIONAL NATIVITY SCENE

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

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.

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

REACTIONS TO BIRTH

- Herod the Great Matt 2:1-18
 –HATRED
- Wise Men Mt 2:1-12
 ADORING WORSHIP WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?