

**"Listening to the Message of Christmas"**

**Luke 2:1-14**

**Introduction:** Today in our message I want to look at the birth of Jesus Christ from a different perspective. This morning I want us to take a close look at the birth of Jesus Christ to see what Christmas speaks of to all of us. Christmas is far more than a Baby in a manger. It is far more than angels singing the night of His birth. In the birth of Jesus Christ there is much for us to hear and to see. Christmas speaks of:

**1. Man's Greatest Need.**

The Bible tells us over and over that Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.

**Matthew 1:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> 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 Ghost.*

*<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.*

*<sup>20</sup> But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

*<sup>21</sup> And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

**John 1:29**

*<sup>29</sup> The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

**Titus 2:14-14**

*<sup>13</sup> Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

*<sup>14</sup> Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

Jesus came into this world to meet the greatest need of mankind. We are all sinners and we have sinned against a holy and a righteous God. Our greatest need was for a Savior.

**Romans 3:10, 23**

<sup>10</sup> *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

<sup>23</sup> *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Because we are sinners we are sentenced to die.

#### **Ezekiel 18:20**

<sup>20</sup> *The soul that sinneth, it shall die.* *The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.*

Keep in mind that death means separation. Because of sin we were sentenced to be eternally separated from God.

#### **Revelation 21:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Then with our sinful condition we were helpless to save ourselves.

#### **Isaiah 57:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> *And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?*

<sup>12</sup> *I will declare thy righteousness, and thy works: for they shall not profit thee.*

#### **Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>6</sup> *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

So, our condition was dark and helpless. Without a Savior we are on a path to eternal destruction. This brings us to the next thing which Christmas speaks of.

### **2. God's Love.**

#### **John 3:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,* *that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

<sup>17</sup> For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

**1 John 4:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

<sup>10</sup> Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

The birth of Jesus Christ was the love of God reaching out to the entire world.

**Luke 2:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

The love of God is magnified when we stop and consider man's true condition.

**Romans 5:6, 8, 10**

<sup>6</sup> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

<sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Here we see that we were ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God. Yet, He still chose to love us and to send His only begotten Son into this sin filled world to be our Savior. **The BABY in the manger was born to die for your sins.**

This brings us to the next thing which Christmas speaks of.

**3. God's Faithfulness.**

When we look at the birth of our Lord and Savior, we can clearly see the faithfulness of our God. God had foretold of the coming of Jesus Christ for thousands of years.

**Isaiah 7:14**

<sup>14</sup> *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

**Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> *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.*

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

**Micah 5:2**

<sup>2</sup> *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

The first promise was given in Genesis.

**Genesis 3:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:*

<sup>15</sup> *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

Here in Genesis, right after the fall, God told the serpent that the Seed of the woman would crush his head. The Seed of the woman would be Jesus Christ. This announcement caused Satan to launch an attack against this promise in an attempt to keep it from being fulfilled.

John spoke of this attack when he wrote Revelation.

**Revelation 12:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> *And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.*

<sup>4</sup> *And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

The WOMAN here is Israel. Satan launched many attacks upon the Nation of Israel because he knew that the Redeemer who would crush his head would come from this very nation. Let me show you some of the attacks.

Satan launched his attack shortly after the promise was given.

#### **Genesis 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

It is believed by many that the promise would come through Abel, but Satan moved Cain to kill his own brother. Then we read on.

#### **Genesis 4:25**

<sup>25</sup> *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.*

In Genesis 6 Satan brought about much demon passion in an attempt to corrupt the entire human race.

#### **Genesis 6:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

<sup>6</sup> *And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

This was an attempt to destroy the promise of the Messiah. But God would not permit His promise to be destroyed.

#### **Genesis 6:8**

<sup>8</sup> *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

It would be through Noah that the promise would be kept alive.

Then in Exodus we see another attack.

**Exodus 1:13, 16**

<sup>13</sup> *And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:*

<sup>16</sup> *And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, **then ye shall kill him**: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.*

The order to kill the baby boys was a Satanic attack against the promise again. But God would not allow this to happen.

**Exodus 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> *But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.*

Then we read of another attack when Jesus was born.

**Matthew 2:16**

<sup>16</sup> *Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and **slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under**, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.*

So, the birth of Jesus Christ speaks of the faithfulness of God. He promised a Redeemer and there was nothing that could stop God from keeping His promise for He is faithful to His Word. Jesus Christ was born.

This brings us to one more point which Christmas speaks of.

**4. God's Compassion.**

When I stop and listen closely to what Christmas says I can hear the birth of Jesus Christ speak of the compassion of God. I want you to think about something for a moment. God could have sent His Son into the world as a full-grown man and Jesus could have come here for several days and then went to the cross and died for our sins. He would have still been our Savior. But instead God sent His Son into the world as a baby to live for 33 years and then die upon the cross.

Why did Jesus need to come into the world as a baby and live among man for 33 years before He died for our sins?

Let me show you something which we have talked about before.

**Hebrews 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

<sup>10</sup> *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

The words that are underlined here are so important. We see that Jesus was made PERFECT through sufferings. Does this mean He was not PERFECT when He was born? No, it does not! Jesus was PERFECT when He was born. But through the sufferings that He faced in the 33 years He lived here He became PERFECT in experience.

Today Jesus is our Great High Priest and with that said let me show you something else.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

<sup>15</sup> *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

<sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Jesus suffered so that He can through experience relate to what we are going through. He knows our weaknesses and our temptations. So, when we have a need, we can come to Him and He can give us exactly what we need for He already knows.

Therefore, the birth of Jesus Christ speaks of the compassion of God. He loved us so much that He sent His Son into a world of sin to live and experience life so that He could identify with us when we are facing the sufferings of this life.

**Conclusion:**

Christmas speaks of:

1. **Our need.**
2. **God's love.**
3. **God's faithfulness.**
4. **God's compassion.**