



Thursday, 12/24 at 6:00

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2020

Christmas Day at 10; Saturdays at 4:00; Sundays at 9:00

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Do you get it – about sin and Jesus? Many SAY yes, *but the evidence SAYS no:*

- Exhibit 1 – The words of Jesus: Many enter into destruction, while only a few enter into life (Mt. 7:13-14).
- Exhibit 2 – Christmas has become nonspiritual: Many celebrate – yes! But many celebrate a Christ-less Christmas, while only a few focus on Jesus. Take a moment, *think about YOUR Christmas*; other than attending this service, how are you focusing on Jesus?
- Exhibit 3 – Bible, church, giving: Many no longer read, attend, or give, while only a few show such things to be important. By God's grace, *let us be among the few!*

If you **GET** and **GOT** the truth about sin and salvation – *GREAT, thanks be to God!* If you don't **or** aren't sure, please have an open ✓ ear, ✓ mind, and ✓ heart tonight!

1. **4,000 BC: Warning, Sin, and Promise – Genesis 2 and 3:**
 - a. Warning: **2:16-17** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from **the tree** of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” // Abstain—live; eat—die!
 - b. Sin: **3:6-7** When the woman saw that **the tree** was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened... // When they disobeyed God, they died spiritually – so they ended their relationship with God, could not fix what they had ruined, and would eventually die physically. **Helpless** – them, us!
 - c. Promise: **3:15** [God to Satan:] “...I will put enmity [hostility] **Between you and the woman, And between your seed** [other evil ones] **and her seed** [my Son]; **He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.**” // The Son of God came into the world to reverse the curse and open the way to heaven! Get it?
2. **2,000 BC: Promise Reminder and Family Tree – Gen. 12:**
 - a. Family Tree: God would certainly keep His promise, but through whom would the Savior enter this world? Think about the many branches on a tree...
 - b. Promise Reminder: **12:3** “...in you [Abram] **all the families of the earth will be blessed.**” // Now we know the branch through whom the Savior will come!
3. **700 BC: Virgin Birth – Isaiah 7:** This is one of two prophecies spoken by Isaiah the prophet to Ahaz, king of

Judah: **7:14** “...a virgin [*a young woman (Gen. 24:43), girl (Ex. 2:8)*] **will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel** [*God with us*]. Mary was that virgin; by God’s power she conceived and bore a son; Mary’s Son **is** great, **is** named Jesus, and **is** the very Son of God!

4. **700 BC: Birth Location – Micah 5: 5:2** “**But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah** [*to distinguish it from another Bethlehem*], **Too little to be among the clans** [*the large families*] **of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me** [*thus I, the LORD, will send Him*] **to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.” //**
- Earth-family connections: Abraham... > his grandson Judah... > Jesus.
 - God-family connections: The Son of God was with God the Father *before the creation of the world* (John 1:1-2); then, *in the fullness of time*, He put on flesh!
5. **Making Preparations – Luke 1:** The person and work of John: 1:11-17 ...**an angel of the Lord appeared to him** [*Zacharias*]... **the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. ...he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother’s womb. ...he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”//** Through John, God called the people to **repent** and **trust** in Jesus!

6. **Jesus' Great Purpose – Matthew 1:**

- a. The dilemma of Joseph: 1:18-20: Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.” // Do you get it? **We are all helpless to save ourselves, so God sent His Son to save us from our sins!**
- b. The task of each person: 1:21: “She [Mary] will bear a Son; and you [Joseph] shall call His name Jesus, for He [Jesus] will save His people from their sins.” // Were Mary and Joseph important? Yes! Is Jesus a billion times more important? Yes! Get it? Got it? Good!
- c. The rest of the story: 1:24-25: ...Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name **Jesus**. // Joseph believed; then he took action!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, You know the forces of evil are working very hard to keep us deceived, so **powerfully intervene in our lives to** ➔ GET Your truth in a deeper way, ➔ rejoice that we GOT Jesus – *who is our Savior from sin and hell*, and ➔ keep Jesus first in our lives every day of the year!

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