

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2023

Sunday, 12/24 at 4:00

Your Best Ever Advent and Christmas
Part 7: Disappointment; Dream;
Roles; Fulfillment

It's Not Too Late!
Get a Booklet
Use It Every Day



Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This year at Bethlehem we are using our Advent-Christmas booklet to understand
▶the history of the world and ▶our need for Jesus!

The 6 previous sermons have brought us to this moment:

1. **Part 1 (4000 BC):** We laid the foundation with ▶God's perfect **creation**, ▶the **fall** into sin, and ▶the **promise** of the Savior. Then we learned how sin has passed from person-to-person-to-person since the sin of Adam.
2. **Part 2 (2000 BC):** Then we learned how the LORD turned the focus of the Bible to **Abraham** and his descendants – *because the Savior would come through his family*. Then, jumping to **1400 BC**, **Moses** said the LORD would send a **prophet** like him – *referring to JESUS*, and it would be vital for us to LISTEN TO HIM!

3. **Part 3 (700 BC):** Then we focused on various OT prophecies of the coming Savior – a **virgin** would conceive and bear a son, and the people in **darkness** would see a **GREAT LIGHT!**
4. **Part 4 (700 BC):** Then a child – *of other parents* –
 - ▶ would be born **FOR US**,
 - ▶ would be born in **Bethlehem**,
 - ▶ would be a descendant of King **David**, and
 - ▶ the Spirit of the LORD would *remain* upon Him!
5. **Part 5 (700 BC):** Then we came to ▶ the prophecy about **John** preparing the way for Jesus, ▶ the prophetic announcement of Jesus' GREAT **victory**, and ▶ the awesome **blessings** we have through faith in Jesus!
6. **Part 6:** Then, earlier today, we learned that ▶ the **Son** was with the Father before creation and ▶ the Father **created** all things through the Son. Then Gabriel told Mary about the SUPER-AMAZING **child** she would bear!

Now, **Part 7** of this 9-part series: Days 19 & 20 of the booklet.

Day 19 – Th, 12/21 – Big Disappointment, Important Dream

Read and Think: **Matthew 1:18-20 ...the birth of Jesus**

Christ...: when His mother Mary had been betrothed [*engaged*] to Joseph, before they came together [*as husband and wife*] she was found to be with child **by the Holy Spirit**.

And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man [*trusting in the Promised Messiah*] and not wanting to disgrace her [*expose her pregnancy publicly*], planned to send her away secretly [*privately release her from their engagement*].

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.”

Answer and Pray:

- Imagine: You are in love and engaged, **and** you are honoring God – *waiting to have relations with your fiancé until you are married*. BUT THEN you find out SHE IS PREGNANT! *Joseph was certainly disappointed!*
- What did Joseph decide? Joseph was an OT believer, *desiring to honor God in his life*. So, rather than publicly accuse Mary of adultery – *bringing at least shame and possibly death upon her* (Lev. 20:10), he decided to secretly end their relationship.
- How did God redirect Joseph? God sent Joseph a message, *through an angel*, explaining that the child in Mary was not from another man BUT FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT!
- Did Joseph believe the words of the angel? *Amazingly, he did!* What about us: Do we believe what the Bible says? If we do, *then it is VITAL to APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES!* If we don't, we are deceived. Jesus said: **“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”** (Luke 6:46).

CHOIR: *An Antiphonal Noel*

Joel Raney

Day 20 – Friday, 12/22 – Key Roles, Prophetic Fulfillment

Read and Think: **Matthew 1:21-24** **“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”** Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet [Isaiah (7:14)]: **“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,”** which translated means, **“GOD WITH US.”** And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife...

Answer and Pray:

- God's plan: **Mary** would bear the child, **Joseph** would name Him Jesus, and **Jesus** would *SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS! Jesus is the Savior; don't trust in yourself!*
- Can a virgin conceive? Are women – *who have never been with a man* – wondering: Am I pregnant? **NO!** In the natural order of things – **NEVER!** *But God is always able to do the impossible!*
- Why was God's Son born of a virgin?
 - Because all prophecy must be fulfilled!
 - Because God is His Father!
 - Because God wants us to know that no one in all time is like Jesus – *God in flesh, to save us from our sins!*
 - Because Jesus is **GOD WITH US** and, in many ways, **like us:** “...since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil...” (Heb. 2:14).

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, You planned, then You executed Your plan, and now, through Jesus, You are offering everyone Your amazing gift of eternal life. **TYSM!** By Your Spirit, ★ open many blind eyes and ★ lead many to repent and believe in Jesus!

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