

The **Victory** **Voice**



"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise...."

Matthew 1:18

Special

Christmas Edition

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AFRAID AT CHRISTMAS!

by Pastor Elmo Parker

Luk 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

How familiar this greeting. It simply and sincerely sums up all that Christmas has so often held for us. Many good memories of childhood are those events surrounding Christmas.

While ***our*** Christmas experiences are filled with happiness, that was not the emotion evidenced in the lives of many who were participants on that first Christmas! Notice the individuals mentioned as being a part of that event experienced something very different:

Luk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

Luk 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Mat 1:20 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.

"Fear not," was the message of God to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Though fear appears inseparable from this miraculous event, the common expression used as a greeting today is, "Merry Christmas!" Such a greeting is NOT alien to the deeper spiritual meaning of Christmas.

As you think of the coming of Christ into the world of long ago, so the heart of the Christmas message speaks of a similar coming of Christ into the hearts of men today!

Why were the shepherds filled with fear? Was it not because of the fact that the angels were messengers from the spiritual world? This spiritual world was alien to them.

This revelation and the manner of its announcement revealed the authority of God! Men know perfectly well that IF there is a God, then the most important thing in the world is to find out what that God wants and then DO IT! Few attempt to do this. It seems that last thing they want to do is find out what God wants!

For the shepherds there came also promise of, "great joy." Men today miss the "great joy" of knowing Jesus because they fear Him as though He brought misery! Yet Jesus said of Himself, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

After they moved beyond their initial

fear, the shepherds hastened to enter into a relationship with God's Son. We read, "Let us now go...and see...." They went with haste and found God's gift!

Long before the shepherds feared, another person was possessed of it—Mary, the mother of Jesus! The Word of God records that Mary was filled with unrest and fear. We read that the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God."

Mary's fear was brought about as she heard of her, "favor with God." Mary's concern would be that of her relationship to God and her relationship to her espoused husband. Mary was to have an experience that no other woman on earth every had or could have in the future.

As God's plan was voiced to her by the angel, she questioned the possibility of it—seeing that she was a virgin. She listened, and readily accepted God's plan and her part in it. For Mary that first Christmas meant a complete change in her life.

Again we see a great similarity between the events of that first Christmas and God's dealings with us. As the Spirit of God would "overshadow" Mary, so He moves in the hearts of men to bring new life to the willing participant. As Mary declared, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word," so you and I must submit ourselves to God's divine plan. God's plan is that the risen and living Christ would enter the heart and life that is opened to receive Him!

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EVANGELIST BILLY SUNDAY

His Name Shall be Called WONDERFUL!

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY BILLY SUNDAY

IN olden times all names meant something, and this is still the case among Indians and all other people who are living in a primitive way. Whenever you know an Indian's name and the meaning of it, you know something about the Indian. Such names as Kill Deer, Eagle Eye, Buffalo Face and Sitting Bull tell us something about the men who possessed them.

This tendency to use names that are expressive still crops out in camp life, and whenever men are thrown together in an unconventional way. In mining, military and lumber camps nearly every man has a nickname that indicates some peculiarity or trait of character. Usually a man's nickname is nearer the real man than his right name.

All of our family names today had their origin in something that meant something. All Bible names have a meaning, and when you read the Scriptures it will always help you to a better understanding of their meaning to look up the definition of all proper names.

Of the many names given to Christ it is my purpose at this time to briefly consider this one: "His name shall be called Wonderful." Let us look into it somewhat and see whether He was true to the name given Him in a prophecy eight hundred years before He was born. Does the name fit Him? Is it such a name as He ought to have? Wonderful means something that is transcendently beyond the common; something that is away beyond the ordinary. It means something that is altogether unlike anything else. We say that Yellowstone Park, Niagara Falls and the Grand Canon of the Colorado are wonderful because there is nothing else like them.

When David killed Goliath with his sling he did a wonderful thing, because nobody else ever did anything like it. It was wonderful that the Red Sea should open to make a highway for Israel, and wonderful that the sun should stand still for Joshua. Let us see whether Jesus was true to His name.

His birth was wonderful, for no other ever occurred that was like it. It was wonderful in that

He had but one human parent, and so inherited the nature of man and the nature of God. He came to be the Prince of princes, and the King of kings, and yet His birth was not looked forward to in glad expectation, as the birth of a prince usually is in the royal palace, and celebrated with marked expressions of joy all over the country, as has repeatedly happened within the recollection of many who are here. There was no room for Him at the inn, and He had to be born in a stable, and cradled in a manger, and yet angels proclaimed His birth with joy from the sky, to a few humble shepherds in sheepskin coats, who were watching their flocks by night.

Mark how He might have come with all the pomp and glory of the upper world. It would have been a great condescension for Him to have been born in a palace, rocked in a golden cradle and fed with golden spoons, and to have had the angels come down and be His nurses. But He gave up all the glory of that world, and was born of a poor woman, and His cradle was a manger. Think what He had come for. He had come to bless, and not to curse; to lift up, and not to cast down. He had come to seek and to save that which was lost. To give sight to the blind; to open prison doors and set captives free; to reveal the Father's love; to give rest to the weary; to be a blessing to the whole world, and yet there was no room for Him. He came to do that, and yet many of you have no room for Him in your hearts.

His birth was also wonderful in this, that the wise men of the East were guided from far across the desert to His birthplace by a star. Nothing like this ever announced the coming of any one else into this world. As soon as His birth was known the king of the country sought His life, and ordered the slaughter of the Innocents at Bethlehem. The babies were the first Christian martyrs.

His character was wonderful, for no other has ever approached it in perfection. It is wonderful that the greatest character ever known should have come out of such obscurity, to become the most famous in all history. That such a time and such a country and such a people should have produced Jesus Christ can be accounted for on no other ground than His divinity. On his return from a trip to the Holy Land a minister was asked what had made the greatest impression upon him while there. "Nazareth," he answered, and for this reason: "The same kind of people are living there today as in the time of Jesus, and they are about the worst specimens of humanity I have seen anywhere. Lazy, lustful, ignorant and unspeakably wicked, and to think of His coming out from such a people is to me a sure proof of His divinity. Had I not been a believer in His divinity before going there, I should have to believe in it now."

His life was wonderful. Wonderful for its unselfishness, its sinlessness and its usefulness. Even His enemies could not bring against Him any graver charge than that He claimed God for His

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Good Tidings of GREAT JOY!

by D. W. Board Sr., Th.D.

How wonderful it is to be able to bring you good news! It seems that for years there has been so much bad news, sad news, discouraging news. The Word of God brings good news to all who will listen! As you read the following account of the birth of Jesus, take a moment to ask the Lord to encourage your heart with these "good tidings of great joy!"

Luk 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

Luk 2:2 (*And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)

Luk 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Luk 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

Luk 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Luk 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Luk 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luk 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luk 2:9 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.

Luk 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luk 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luk 2:12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

Luk 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

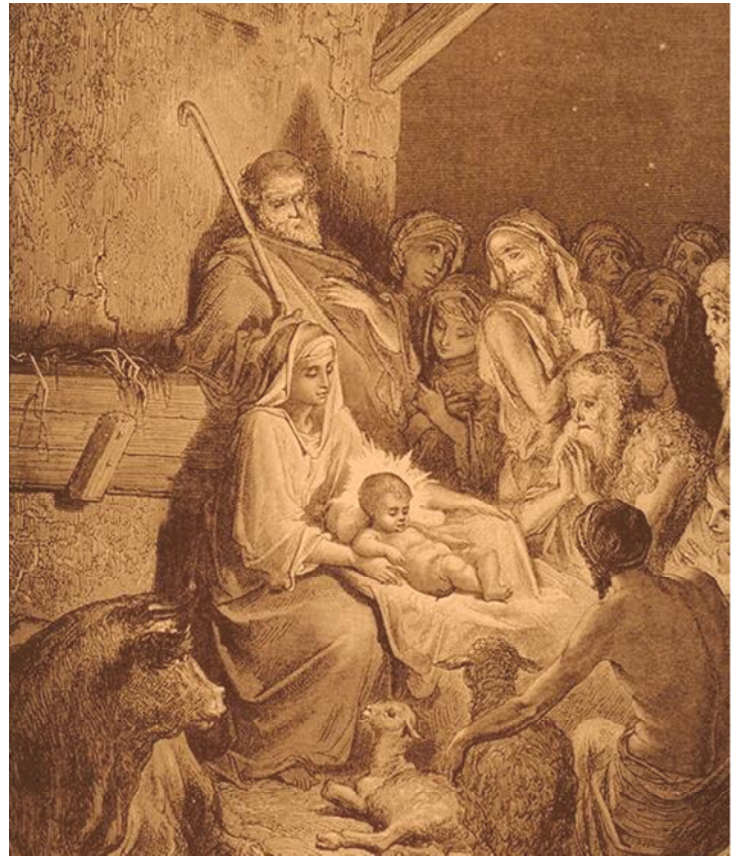
Luk 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luk 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Luk 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luk 2:17 And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Luk 2:18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those



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things which were told them by the shepherds.

Let us observe a few of things that this "Good News" concerns.

First we learn that a "Savior" is born. What better news could there be for creatures like us? The Bible declares, and we know from experience, that we are sinners! O, we may not have robbed a bank or murdered anyone, but we know that we have failed to do right and have succeeded in doing wrong: both are what the Bible calls, "sin." The Word of God plainly states that the wages of our sin is death! That not only means that we will die physically, but that we will experience the "second death" which is eternal separation from God while being confined to the horrors of Hell.

The good news is that God so loved His fallen and sinful creation that He gave His only begotten Son to redeem fallen mankind. Our text says to us—"...unto YOU is born this day...a savior which is Christ, the Lord." Jesus is that Savior. As the very Son of God, Jesus could and did pay the penalty for our sin.

The Bible declares that "...whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." There is no money to be paid. There are no works to be done. Jesus didn't co-sign our debt, HE PAID IT ALL!!! If that isn't "good tidings of great joy," please tell me what is!

When a sinner accepts Christ's work on the cross as his only claim to Heaven, he receives far more than forgiveness of sin, as wonderful as that is.

The Lord also provides for us all that is needed to live a Christ honoring, God glorifying life. That

is, while we will never be perfect until we get to Heaven, we can none the less lead lives characterized by good and not evil. The power to live such a life is an important part of these, "tidings of great joy."

We have many enemies as we walk through this life. We must ever fight the world, the flesh, and the devil, but there is another foe far more frightening than these. The Bible tells us that the last of our enemies to be destroyed will be DEATH!

When Jesus died His body was placed in a tomb which belonged to another man. You see, Jesus only needed that tomb for THREE days and THREE nights! Bible prophecy had declared and Jesus plainly taught that HE would rise from the dead on the third day_ AND HE DID!

Jesus taught that because HE lives WE shall live also and that someday we would be just like Him. We will live as long as God lives. Now that is "good news!"

This wonderful account of our Lord's birth also shows us another aspect of our responsibility toward God and our fellow men. When the shepherds heard of the birth of the Savior they went to see Him. Having found Him they then proceeded to GO AND TELL OTHERS!

Friend, if you don't know the Savior, call upon Him today! Brother or sister in Christ, let us follow the biblical precept and go and tell others that they can have their sin forgiven by calling upon the Son of God Who died that they might have life and have it more abundantly!



Father, and that He would do good on the Sabbath day. He was always helping others, but not once did He do anything to help Himself. He had the power to turn stones into bread, but went hungry forty days without doing it. While escaping from enemies who were determined to put Him to death He saw a man who had been blind from birth, and stopped to give him sight, doing so at the risk of His life. He never sought His own in any way, but lived for others every day of His life. His first miracle was performed, not before a multitude to spread His own fame, but in a faraway hamlet, to save a peasant's wife from humiliation. He had compassion on the hungry multitude and wept over Jerusalem, but He never had any mercy on Himself.

His teaching was wonderful. It was wonderful for the way in which He taught; for its simplicity and clearness, and adaptation to the individual. Nowhere do you find Him seeking the multitude, but He never avoided the individual. And His teaching was always adapted to the comprehension of those whom He taught. It is said that the common people heard Him gladly, and this shows that they understood what He said. He put the cookies on the lower shelf. No man had to take a dictionary with him when he went to hear the Sermon on the Mount. He illustrated His thought and made plain His meaning by the most wonderful word-pictures. The preacher who would reach the people must have something to say, and know how to say it so that those who hear will know just what he means.

Jesus made His meaning clear by using plenty of illustrations. He didn't care a rap what the scribes and Pharisees thought about it, or said about it. He wanted the people to know what He meant, and that is why He was always so interesting. The preacher who can't make his preaching interesting has no business in the pulpit. If he can't talk over ten minutes without making people begin to snap their watches and go to yawning all over the house, he has misunderstood the Lord about his call to preach. Jesus was interesting because He could put the truth before people in an interesting way. We are told that without a parable He spake not to any man. He made people see things, and see them clearly. It is wonderful that this humble Galilean peasant, who may never have gone to school a day in His life, should have made Himself a Teacher of teachers for all time. The pedagogy of today is modeling after the manner of Christ closer and closer every day.

He was wonderful in His originality. The originality of Jesus is a proof of His divinity. The human mind cannot create anything in an absolute sense. It can build out of almost any kind of material, but it cannot create. There is no such thing as out-and-out originality belonging to man. You cannot imagine anything that does not resemble something you have previously seen or heard of.

There is said to be nothing new under the sun, and there is a sense in which it is true. Everything is the outgrowth of something else. The first railway cars looked like the old stage-coaches, and the first automobiles looked like carriages. It is that way about everything. No

man ever made a book, or even a story, that was altogether unlike all others.

The stories we hear today on the Irish and Dutch are older than the Irish and Dutch. You can find stories like them in the earliest literature, but you can't find any stories anywhere in any literature that even in the remotest way resemble the parables of Jesus. Such parables as the prodigal son and the Good Samaritan are absolutely new creations, and so proclaim Jesus as divine, because He could create.

His teaching was wonderful, not only in the way He taught, but in what He taught. He taught that He was greater than Moses. Think of the audacity of it! Making such claims as that to the Jews, who regarded Moses as being almost divine. Think of the audacity of some man of obscure and humble parentage standing before us Americans and trying to make us think he was greater than George Washington.

Jesus also declared that He fulfilled the prophecies and the law of Moses, and the only effort He ever made to prove His claim was to point to the works that He did. The first thing an impostor always does is to over-prove his case. Jesus never turned His hand over to try to convince His enemies that He was the Christ. You have to explain a coal-oil lamp, but you don't need to waste any breath in giving information about the power of the sun. The springtime will do that by making all nature burst into bud, flower and leaf, and the power of Christ is shown just as convincingly in the changed lives of men and women who believe in Him.

Jesus taught that He was equal to God. He said, "He that hateth Me hateth My Father also" (John 15:23). Did you ever know of anybody else making such claims? He said, "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Offering to bear the burden of the whole world. Think of it! He said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." And He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; and he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." Surely He was wonderful in what He taught.

He was wonderful in what He prophesied of Himself. He foretold how He would die, and when He would die. It was wonderful that He should have been betrayed into the hands of those who sought His life, by one of His own trusted disciples, and wonderful that He should have been sold for so low a price.

Wonderful, too, that He should have been condemned to death in the way in which He was, by both the religious and civil authorities, and on the testimony of false witnesses, in the name of

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God, when all the laws of God were defied in the trial. It was wonderful that He was tormented and tortured so cruelly before being sent to the cross, and that He should have been put to death in the brutal manner in which He was. The time of His death was also wonderful; on the day of the Passover, thus Himself becoming the real Passover, to which the Passover lamb had so long pointed.

The great publicity of His death was also wonderful. It is doubtful if any other death was ever witnessed by so many people. Hundreds of thousands of people were in Jerusalem, who had come from everywhere to attend the Passover. The sky was darkened, and the sun hid his face from the awful scene. A great earthquake shook the city; the dead came out of their graves, and went into the city, appearing unto many, and the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom. And remember that up to that time no eye had been allowed to look behind that veil, except that of the high priest, and then only once a year, on the great Day of Atonement.

His resurrection was wonderful. He had foretold it to His disciples, and had done so frequently, always saying, whenever He spoke of His death, that He would rise again on the third day, and yet every one of them appeared to forget all about it, and not one of them was expecting it. None of them thought of going to the sepulcher on the morning of the third day, except the women, and they only to prepare His body more fully for the grave. Womanhood has always been on the firing line.

This shows how fully they had abandoned all hope when they saw Him dead. Some left the city, for we are told of two who went to Emmaus. The manner of His resurrection was godlike. No human mind could ever have imagined such a scene. Had some man described it in the way in which he thought it should have occurred, he would have had earthquakes and thunders and a great commotion in the heavens. A sound like that of the last trump would have proclaimed to all the terrified inhabitants of Jerusalem that He was risen. But see how far different it was.

An angel rolled away the stone from the mouth of the sepulcher as quietly as the opening of the buds in May, and the women, who were early there, found no disorder in the grave, but the linen clothes with which they had tenderly robed His body were neatly folded and tidily placed. I know that this story of the resurrection is true, because none but God would have had things happen in the order that they did, and in the way in which they occurred. Had the story been false the record would have made Jesus go to Pilate and the high priest, and to the others who had put Him to death, to prove that He was risen.

The effect of His teaching upon the world has been wonderful. Remember that He left no great colleges to promulgate His doctrines, but committed them to a few humble fishermen, whose

names are now the most illustrious in all history. Looked at from the human side alone, how great was the probability that everything He had said would be forgotten within a few years. He never wrote a sermon. He published no books. Not a thing He said was engraved upon stone or scrolled upon brass, and yet His doctrines have endured for two thousand years. They have gone to the ends of the earth, and have wrought miracles wherever they have gone. They have lifted nations out of darkness and degradation and sin, and have made the wilderness to blossom as the rose.

He is true to His name because He is a wonderful Savior now. You have only to lift your eyes and look about you to see that His wonderful salvation is going on everywhere today. This vast audience throws the lie back into your teeth when you say the religion of Jesus Christ is dying out. There has never been a time when the love of Christ gripped the hearts of humanity as it does today.

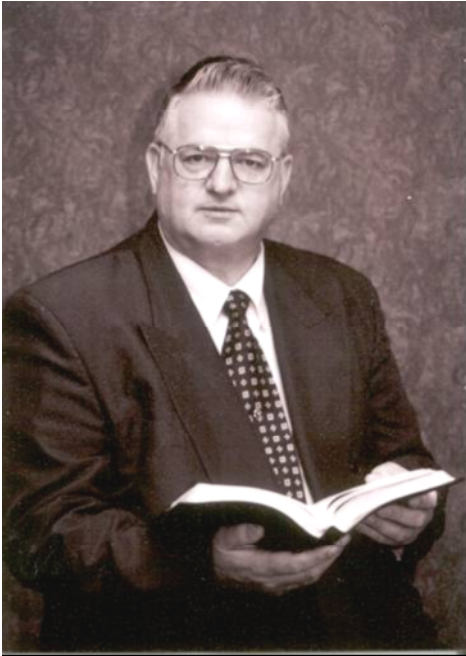
Any number of men who were headed straight for the devil are preaching the gospel today because they were stopped by the light of God and the voice of His Christ as suddenly at St. Paul was. Yes, He is a wonderful Savior because He is able to save to the uttermost now.

Moody used to tell of a banker in San Francisco, who was awakened in the night by a burglar at his bedside. The robber held a revolver almost against his face, and said, "If you move I'll kill you!" The banker said, "God have mercy on my soul!" and knocked the burglar down before he could pull the trigger, and was soundly converted before the man struck the floor, as his life afterward proved.

And now I come to the last evidence I will give you that He is true to His name, and that is-He is a wonderful Savior because He saved me. There is nothing that can be so convincing to a man as his own experience. I do not know that I am the son of my mother any more certainly than I know that I am a child of God, and I do not know that I have been born in a natural way any more convincingly than I know that I have been born of the Spirit.

And now let me ask you this: Has this wonderful Savior saved you? Do you know Him as your Savior? Have you ever given Him your case? When the proof is so overwhelming that He does save, and has been saving for centuries, and that none have ever been saved or ever can be saved except through Him, is it not wonderful that any one can be indifferent to the claims of Jesus Christ?





DR. ANDREW TULLY

THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY:

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

Christmas is not about the giving of gifts. It is not about sleighing in the snow. It is not even about trees, tinsel, and decorative lights. And Christmas is certainly not about a make-believe gift bestower from the North Pole. It is not about parties, candy, and financial frustration either. These things might not be wrong in their proper perspective – but these are not the things that tell the Christmas story.

Christmas is about celebrating the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. "Incarnation" means, "enfleshment." *"And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us..."* The writer of Hebrews put points to the Christ who "took part of flesh and blood" that He might redeem mankind.

Christmas, then, is about His virgin birth, His virtuous life, His voluntary atonement, His vicarious sacrifice, His victorious resurrection, His visible ascension, His valued intercession, and His vowed return. It is all about the Lord Jesus Christ in His becoming flesh.

OBJECTIONS

Unbelievers who make a mockery of the doctrine of the virgin birth say that it can't be true because "...the scholarship of the day is against it." In the first place, this accusation is simply false. Some of the smartest and most educated people in the world believe in the virgin birth of Christ. Even if they didn't, that would not be evidence against it. Remember, the majority is often wrong!

Some say that "...the early Church didn't believe in the virgin birth," which is another lie. The early Church certainly **did** believe in His miraculous conception and birth. Catholics believed it, Protestants believed it, and Baptists believed it. The virgin birth of Christ was a major Bible doctrine preached by the early Church, by both false churches and by real New Testament Churches.

Some say they don't believe in the virgin birth because, "It is against the laws of nature." Now, that one is true! It IS against the laws of nature. It is a miracle of God. Actually, God has created man in four different ways: He created you and me by using both a man and a woman; He created Adam by using neither a man nor a woman; He created Eve by using a man but not a woman, and He created a body for Christ by using a woman but not a man. So, what's the big deal?? The doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ goes all the way back to Genesis 3:15. Christ is prophetically called the "seed" of the "woman" in this verse. The woman doesn't contain the seed; the man does. Hence, this can only be a reference to the virgin birth of Christ. Then in Isaiah 7:14 we are told that "a **virgin** shall conceive and bring forth a son," referring to the coming Messiah. See also Isaiah 9:6. The Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke give many of the details of the virgin birth of Christ. (The miracle was actually in the conception, not the birth, of Christ. His conception in the womb of a virgin was a miracle; the birth was the natural process to follow.) John 1:14 says that the pre-incarnate Christ was "made flesh," and the Gospel writers give the details of this miraculous happening. This is what Christmas is all about! It is about GOD BECOMING FLESH and dwelling among us!

PURPOSE

Now, what does all of this mean? WHY was Jesus conceived in, and born of, a virgin? Why did God become flesh and dwell among us? The eternal answers to this question are:

TO REVEAL THE INVISIBLE GOD. John 4:24 says, "God is a Spirit." John 1:18 says, "No man hath seen God at any time." In John 14:1-10 Philip requested of Jesus, "Shew us the Father." And that is exactly what the virgin birth of Christ is all about – it is about revealing the invisible God. To view God all one has to do is take a good look of the virgin-born Christ.

TO FULFILL PROPHECY. I have never counted them, but we are told that there are at least 91 Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament, containing over 365 details of the coming of Christ into the world. That is probably a pretty accurate assessment. And the historical event of the coming of Christ into the world is a fulfillment of all of these prophecies, even to the place and the family into which He would be born. Every detail was fulfilled exactly as prophesied, proving that the Bible is the Word of God.

TO PROVIDE A SACRIFICE FOR SIN. Jesus (God incarnate in human

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flesh) was “manifested to take away our sins,” says I John 3:5. Our Lord descended from Heaven, landed in the womb of a peasant girl in Nazareth (Mary), conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born in Bethlehem “to take away our sins.” John called Christ “the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (I John 2:2). In short, Jesus Christ is God who became flesh to die for your sins and mine. What a Saviour! “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” (John 3:16). This is what Christmas is all about!

TO PROVIDE THE BELIEVER WITH A HIGH PRIEST. I John 2:1 calls the incarnate Christ our “Advocate.” I Timothy 2:5 calls Him our “Mediator.” Hebrews 2:17 says He became a man so that He could be our faithful High Priest. And Hebrews 7:15 reminds us that He now ever lives to “make intercession for us.” That is why He was virgin born and became a man!

TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. I John 3:8 say that God became a man “that he might destroy the works of the devil.” And when Christ died on Calvary and then arose from the dead, that is exactly what He did. He stripped Satan of all authority and power; it is through His shed blood and His bodily resurrection that we now have victory over the devil – Revelation 12:11.

TO DESTROY THE DEVIL HIMSELF. Then our Lord was born of a virgin and became a Man in order that one day He might destroy the devil himself. “...that through death He might destroy the devil...” (Hebrews 2:14). Revelation 20:10 tells of the day He is going to cast Satan alive into the Lake of Fire – what a joy it will be attend that funeral!

This is what Christmas is all about! I implore you not to get caught up in the distractions of the world about this all-important holiday! It is not about you – it is not even about your children! It is all about Him! Make sure that HE gets His rightful place on His “birthday.” It is about His virgin birth, His virtuous life, His voluntary atonement, His vicarious sacrifice, His victorious resurrection, His visible ascension, His valued intercession, and His vowed return. It is all about Him!

By the way, His first coming was about the baby in a manger growing up and become the Saviour on the Cross! The first time Christ came, He came to die on the Cross; the second time He comes He is coming on a “hoss” to be the Boss! Are you ready to face Him?

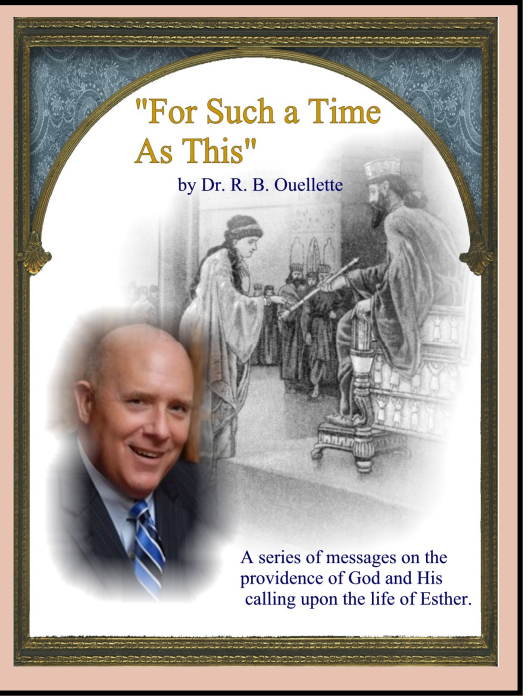


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AFRAID AT CHRISTMAS — (Continued from page 3)

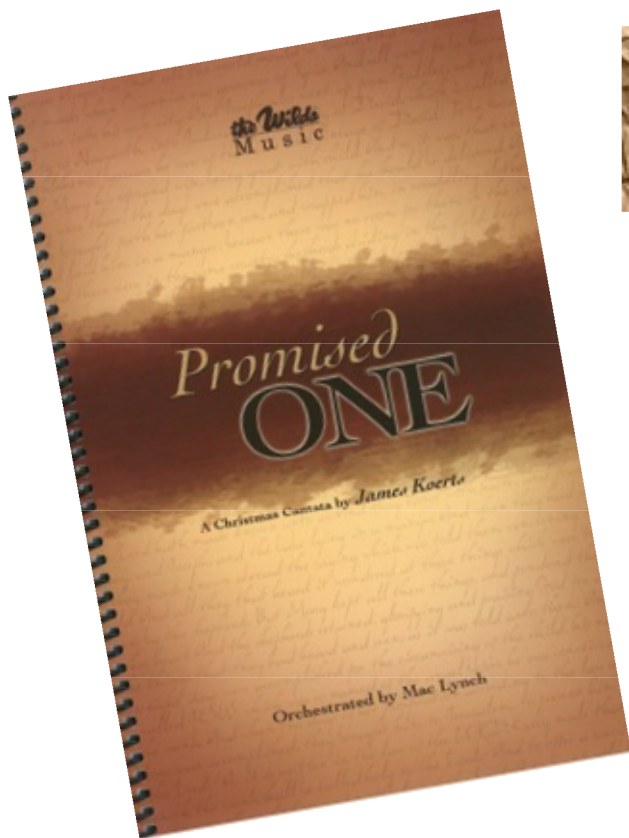
Friend, would you dare to say to the Lord, "Be it unto me according to thy word?" Would you dare to pray that prayer now as you face the implications of the will of God for you?

As we continue to think upon that first Christmas, let us consider the man Joseph. Joseph was told, "...fear not to take unto thee, Mary, thy wife...." Certainly among the things that would have brought fear to Joseph was the social ramifications of a continued relationship with Mary! How the tongues would wag! The rest of their lives Mary and Joseph would live under the cloud of shame, but the shame was not reserved for them alone! The Son of God came into this world under that same cloud! One day His enemies would seek to silence Him with these words, "WE be not born of fornication!" The implication was that the son of Mary WAS born of fornication!

To his credit, Joseph, "...did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him...." What courage lay behind this action! Cowardice, more than anything else today, keeps men from obedience to God's will!

Cowardice, or "fear" keeps us from accepting Christ! Cowardice keeps us from serving Christ! Cowardice keeps us from sharing Christ!

It is noteworthy that once the shepherds moved beyond their fear they sought to find the Christ child. Upon finding Him they worshiped Him. Having worshiped Him they then sought to share Him with others!



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