

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

Introduction:

- A. Birth of ordinary baby exciting: Name? Looks? Future?
- B. Birth of Mary's baby not ordinary.
 - 1. To be called:
 - a. "Jesus" (Matt. 1:21).
 - b. "Immanuel" (Matt. 1:23).
 - c. "Son of the Highest" (Lk. 1:32).
 - 2. To be king. (Lk. 1:33; John 18:37).
- C. Facts about birth of Jesus:

Discussion:

I. Jesus Was Born of a Virgin. (Matt. 1:18-25).

- A. Miraculous rather than providential (Cf. John Baptist, Isaac, etc.)
- B. Test of faith for Joseph and Mary.
- C. Crucial to our faith.
 - 1. If no virgin birth then:
 - a. No dual nature.
 - (1) Not "God with us" (v. 23).
 - (2) Not a special high priest. (cf. Heb. 4:14-16)
 - b. Bible is farce.
 - c. Christianity is hoax.
 - 2. Prophesied by Isaiah (7:14, Matt. 1:22,23).
 - a. Attacked by modernism. (cf. RSV).
 - b. No sign if not a virgin.

II. Jesus Was Born in "Fullness of Time." (Gal. 4:4).

- A. Timing important for any major event.
 - 1. Natural events.
 - 2. Political events.
 - 3. Courtship and marriage.
 - 4. Space exploration.
- B. Timing important in birth of the Savior.
 - 1. After careful preparation.
 - a. Patriarchal promises.
 - b. Chosen nation.
 - c. Law of Moses. (cf. Gal. 3:24; 4:1-4).
 - d. Prophecy.
 - 2. After events had taken shape.
 - a. After Jews proved could not save self by works of law.
 - b. After Pagans proved could not save self by wisdom.
 - c. After Greek became universal language.
 - d. After Romans provided political and logistical climate for spread of gospel.

III. Jesus Was Born to Save. (Matt. 1:21).

- A. Saves from sin.
 - 1. Not temporal consequences: poverty, suffering, sickness and injustice, etc.
 - 2. But guilt and eternal consequences.
- B. Saves conditionally. (Mark 16:15,16; Heb. 5:8,9).
 - 1. Else universal salvation.
 - 2. Or arbitrary salvation. (cf. Acts 10:34,35).
- C. Saves all kinds of people.
 - 1. Crucifiers. (Acts 2:36-38,41,47)

2. Sorcerers. (Acts 8:13ff)
3. Persecutors. (Acts 9)
4. Pagan Jailers. (Acts 16:25-34).
5. Moral men. (Acts 10:)
6. Immoral men. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus born of virgin, in fullness of time, to save sinners like us.
- B. Jesus born to be your savior and king, why not let him be? (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).