

The Miracle of Christ's Birth

A Sign to All Generations

I. Introductory Remarks.

Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

Here we are once again in the midst of the Christmas season celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth on earth. In this message today, I want to draw our attention to the remarkable season that it is. This is a season that God has given as a sign to an unbelieving generation, not only our generation, but every generation that has come and gone since the birth of Christ.

For many Christians this is a time when we actually get distracted from the true worship of Christ and seem to get caught up in the hustle and bustle that has resulted from the way the world has chosen to commercialize and market this yearly event.

On the other hand, millions upon millions of people from every tribe and nation in the world are being reminded once again of the miracle of Christ's birth. This is the sign that was given to the world by God to bring mankind into salvation and relationship with their God. It is a sign to all generations.

II. A Sign to All Generations.

In the midst of Santa Claus and all of the other secular trappings that come with Christmas each year, we find traces of this miraculous sign everywhere we go. eg., manger scenes glorifying God for the whole community to be reminded of this miraculous sign, Singing Christmas trees, drive through nativity scenes that feature life of Christ from His Birth to Ascension, multitudes of T.V. specials that pay homage to Christ's birth and millions of Christmas cards that are sent to friends and relatives with the message of Christ's birth. These are just a few of the events around our community of which are duplicated in many forms throughout the world to honor the birth of Christ.

This season also brings forth an abundance of Christmas carols and pageants that lift up the name of Jesus as a sign to this unbelieving world of God's grace and majesty and the miracle of the Christ child that was to be a sign to all generations. Today, throughout the world, there are countless numbers of people who are attending some church service, maybe for the first time this year all because a sign was given.

In every generation there are heroes and villains that are worshipped and then forgotten. But the name of Christ is a name that has been worshipped from generation to generation, because He was given as a sign for mankind to find God and eternal life in the midst of societies and generations that have been polluted with sin.

Psalms 33:11 *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.*

Psalms 45:17 *I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; Therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.*

Luke 1:46-50 *And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.*

Signs come in all kinds of shapes, colors and designs and give us specific directions or instructions as to what to do in given situations and they change from generation to generation. But the sign of the Birth of Christ has been a consistent sign throughout the generations of mankind that has continually pointed us in one direction – to the Father and eternal life through Jesus Christ, His Son.

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

John 17:3 *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Many false prophets and teachers have come and gone, the name of Christ is the only name that has been accepted throughout the generations since His birth. He is the sign that the Father has given to us that we may know Him and have eternal life.

Acts 4:12 *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

III. The Miracle of Christ's Birth.

Let's look at the birth of Christ in detail and see what was so special about it that

has caused it to be a sign throughout the generations.

1. The Word Became Flesh.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

John 1:14 *And the Word became 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.*

Matthew 1:23 *"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

2. Christ's Birth Was The Fulfillment Of Many Prophecies.

- **He was to descend from the tribe of Judah.**

Genesis 49:10 *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*

Luke 3:33 *...the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah...*

- **He was to be the Heir of David's Throne.**

Isaiah 9:7 *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Luke 1:32-33 *"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

- **He fulfilled the prophecy concerning time of His birth.**

Daniel 9:25 *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.*

Luke 2:1-2 *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from*

Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

- **He was born of a virgin.**

Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

Matthew 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

These are just a few of the many prophecies that were fulfilled by the coming of Christ and His birth and mission on earth. There are approximately 40 prophecies that Christ fulfilled throughout His 33 1/2 years as the Son of God. These prophecies were spoken and recorded between 700 - 4000 years before the birth of Christ by many different prophets and spokesmen for God. This is truly a miracle. The mathematical probability of this occurring is almost impossible, but yet it happened.

3. Mary Was Impregnated By The Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

Matthew 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

4. Angels Confirmed The Pregnancy To Both Mary & Joseph At Separate Times.

Luke 1:26-31 *Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.*

Matthew 1:18-21 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother*

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

5. His Birth Was Confirmed By Others.

As we look at all the people God chose to be witnesses of the birth of Christ, we see that God used an assortment of people from various walks of life so that all spectrums of their societies heard about the miraculous birth that had taken place. We find that the birth of Christ was witnessed and confirmed by lowly shepherds, who represented the common folk, to religious, scholarly and political leaders of the day.

- **Shepherds were told by the Angels.**

Luke 2:8 *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

Luke 2:17-18 *Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (See vss. 8-20 for whole context).*

- **Wise Men from the East Witnessed & Confirmed the Birth Of Christ.**

Matthew 2:1-2 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*

Wise men from the East were sent by God to confirm the birth of Christ. The Magi were Persians, who were members of a scholarly class that existed from the time of Daniel. They accurately interpreted the appearance of the star that marked Jesus' birth and came to honor Him.

God used these wise men to confirm the birth to Herod the King. Through Herod His birth was confirmed to the ruling governing powers of the day -- Rome. Herod was proclaimed king of Judea by Rome and was able to enforce this rule.

- **Simeon, A Devout Man Confirmed His Birth.**

Luke 2:25-26 *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

He was also used to confirm Joseph and Mary's faith concerning their newborn son as to who He was and what His mission in life was to be.

- **The Widow Anna - A Prophetess.**

Luke 2:36-38 *Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

She spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. The coming of the Messiah was the hope of Israel and God uses this widow to confirm the fulfillment of the promised Messiah.

IV. Concluding Remarks.

As we can see the Lord Himself has given to us a remarkable sign that has turned people's hearts toward eternity throughout the generations. As we spend time with our loved ones this Christmas season, let's remind them of the sign that has been given by referring to the many witnesses & testimonies of Christ's birth everywhere we go. The birth of Christ was truly a sign to all generations. It is the only sign that has withstood the tests of time.