

THE BIRTH OF JESUS – THE PEOPLE, PURPOSE AND PLAN

I. SOME OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS

- A. There is Jesus, God's own Son, who literally came to this earth for 33 years.
- B. There is Mary, a young lady chosen by God to be the mother of His Son.
- C. There is Joseph, a righteous man who served God by helping Mary raise Jesus.
- D. There are the shepherds, chosen to see Jesus and worship Him. Luke 2:20
- E. There are the wise men, who came to worship the King. Matthew 2:1-2
- F. These characters were all humble, and desired to bring God glory. Phil. 2:6-7

II. THE PLAN OF GOD

- A. God had planned since eternity past for Jesus to come to earth. 1 Peter 1:17-21
- B. God had predicted that this would happen.
 - Isaiah 7:14 – A virgin would bear a son and His name would be Immanuel.
 - Isaiah 9:6 – A child would be born who would be the King of the world.
 - Micah 5:2 – The King would be born in Bethlehem.
- C. God's plan would be fulfilled in two parts. Jesus would come the first time to be a Savior, to die for the sins of people. He would come a second time to judge the world and then reign over it. Psalm 22:1-21, 27-31
- D. God specifically planned out who Jesus' earthly ancestors would be. There is the genealogy of Jesus from Joseph's side given in Matthew 1. There is the genealogy of Jesus from Mary's side given in Luke 3.
- E. God planned out everything to the very last detail with regard to the birth of His Son. Luke 2:1-7

III. THE PURPOSES OF GOD

A. Jesus was both God and man. The fact that God became man is called the Incarnation. Jesus was fully God and fully man. Luke 1:30-35

B. Jesus had to be both God and man, for He had to be a mediator between God and man. He had to be a perfect man to be a sacrifice for our sins. He had to be God to make an eternal payment for our sins. 1 Timothy 2:5, Philippians 2:3-8, Isaiah 53:3-5, John 1:29, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 3:18

C. God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, to save us from our sins. Christ died to pay for our sins, and God the Father was satisfied with Christ's death for us. Therefore, God can pronounce all those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus' death for them as not being guilty, as being righteous. John 3:16-17, Romans 3:21-26

D. God not only saved us from our sins and forgave us, but He gave us eternal life. It's not just that He took away our guilt and punishment, but He also gave us an eternal relationship with Him. It's not just that we were forgiven of our huge spiritual debt, but also that God made us His children, and so now we are spiritually, supremely and eternally rich.

E. John 15:9 – love, John 15:11 – joy, John 16:33 – peace, John 17:24 – heaven, 1 Peter 1:3-4 – an eternal inheritance, 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 – a glorified body. 1 Corinthians 2:9 – *“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for him.”*

FOR A CHILD WILL BE BORN TO US, A SON WILL BE GIVEN TO US;
AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL REST ON HIS SHOULDERS;
AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,
MIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.
THERE WILL BE NO END TO THE INCREASE
OF HIS GOVERNMENT OR OF PEACE.

Isaiah 9:6-7