

WHAT JESUS' BIRTH REVEALS (Ed O'Leary)

INTRODUCTION.

WE COMMEMORATE FAMOUS PEOPLE'S BIRTHDAYS ~ NOT BECAUSE OF ANYTHING outstanding about their birth, ~ 77

▶▶ but because their accomplishments in life were noteworthy.

▶▶ But when we consider Jesus, ~ we see that not only was His life significant, ~ His birth was also. ⇒⇒ We see this in what his birth reveals.

▶▶ Today, ~ I would like to briefly share three things that Jesus' birth reveals.

▷▷ Give them in brief: ~~ Birth reveals his person, ~ his mission, ~ and the love of God.

FIRST, ~ JESUS' BIRTH REVEALS HIS PERSON.

IS. 9:6, ~ "FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, ~ TO US A SON IS GIVEN."

"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN" ~ REFERS TO ~ THE HUMANITY OF JESUS.

▶▶ He was 100% human. ~~ But unlike us, ~ he was a ~ 100% ~ sinless human.

▷▷ Heb. 4:15, ~ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, ~ but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, ~ yet without sin.

▶▶ Apart from being sinless, ~ he had a normal development.

▷▷ He referred to Himself as a man and was recognized by others as such. ~~ Hungry, ~ grew tired, ~ thirsty

▷▷ Paul indicated a future day when the world would be judged by a Man. ~~ Mediator: ~~ the man. ⇓⇓ 1/7

ISAIAH CONTINUES, ~ "TO US A SON IS GIVEN."

▶▶ This refers ~ to the deity of Jesus. ~ 100% human and ~ 100% God.

▶▶ Lying in that manger on that first Christmas ~ was the Second Person of the Trinity.

▶▶ Contrary to the popular opinion held by much of the world, ~ Jesus did not have His beginning in Bethlehem.

▷▷ Jn. 1:1, ~ 14; "the word was God"; ~ ~ "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

▷▷ Lk. 1:34-35; "And Mary said to the angel, ~ 'How will this be, ~ since I am a virgin?' ~ ~ And the angel answered her, ~ ↴↴

↵↵ "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, ~ and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; ~ ~ therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God."

▷▷ "I am"

"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, ~ TO US A SON IS GIVEN."

▶▶ God who is infinite has united Himself with finite humanity.

▷▷ Jesus is both fully God and fully man in one Person & will be so forever

▶▶ Now, ~ how God, ~ who is infinite, ~ and finite humanity ~ can be united in one single person ~ is a great mystery.

▷▷ One which we will never fully understand even in eternity.

▶▶ But even though we cannot understand this ~ let us rejoice, ~ ↴↴

▷▷ because through this mystery ~ God provided our salvation. ↵↵ 2/7

▷▷ Heb. 2:17 tells us that Jesus ~ "had to be made like [us] in every respect, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ so that ~ he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, ~ to make propitiation for the sins of the people."

→→ I.e., ~ then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.

▶▶ And that leads us to our second major point this morning.

SECONDLY, ~~ JESUS' BIRTH REVEALS HIS MISSION.

HE CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS AND OUR ENSLAVEMENT TO SIN, ~ DEATH, ~ and Satan.

▶▶ Lk. 2:10-11. ~~ LEB.

▷▷ And the angel said to them, ~~ "Do not be afraid, ~ for behold, ~ I bring good news to you of great joy ~ which will be for all the people: ~~ ¶¶

↳↳ that today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.

▶▶ Heb. 2:14, ~ NIV ~ Since the children have flesh and blood, ~ he too shared in their humanity ~ so that by his death ~ he might break the power of him who holds the power of death — that is, ~ the devil.

▷▷ Since we are made of flesh and blood, ~~ Jesus also became flesh and blood.

↳↳ For only as a human being could he die, ~ and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, ~ who had the power of death.

▶▶ And what did Jesus say to John ~ when he appeared to John after his ascension and glorification? ~~ Rev. 1:17b-18.

▷▷ "Fear not, ~ I am the first and the last, ~ and the living one. ~~ I died, ~ and behold I am alive forevermore, ~ and I have the keys of Death and Hades." ¶¶ 3/7

GAL. 4:4-5 TALKS MORE ABOUT HIS MISSION.

▶▶ But when the fullness of time had come, ~ God sent forth his Son, ~ born of woman, ~ born under the law, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to redeem those who were under the law, ~ so that we might receive adoption as sons.

▶▶ When the set time had fully come, ~ God sent his Son ~ [deity], ~ born of a woman ~ [humanity], ~ born subject to the law.

▶▶ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, ~ so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

▶▶ Like every other human being, ~ Jesus was born under the Law.

▷▷ I.e., ~ He was subject to and under obligation to obey God's Law.

▶▶ But unlike any other person, ~ Jesus satisfied the requirements of that law by living in perfect obedience to it.

▷▷ In Matt. 5:17, ~ Jesus said ~ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; ~ I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

▷▷ And Heb. 4:15 again, ~ "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, ~ but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, ~ yet without sin."

▶▶ Jesus obeyed God's Law completely.

▷▷ And as a result, ~ He could be the perfect sacrifice for sin, ~ because, ~ although fully human, ~ He never sinned.

▷▷ Only a sinless sacrifice could take away sin and provide reconciliation between people and God.

▷▷ His death bought freedom for us who were enslaved to sin ~ offering us redemption and adoption into God's family. ¶¶ 4/7

ALSO ~ CONSIDER JN. 14:6 CONCERNING JESUS' MISSION.

▶▶ "I am the way, ~ and the truth, ~ and the life. ~ No one comes to the Father except through me."

▶▶ Jesus' message is crystal clear. ~ He does not claim to be "a way," ~ or "a truth," or "a life."

▶▶ He does not claim to be "one of many ways," ~ or "one of many truths," ~ or "one of many life's."

▷▷ His crystal clear message is that He is "the way," ~ "the truth," ~ "the life."

↳↳ IOW, ~ the only way a person can have a relationship with the one true and living God ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and be given and enjoy "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

▶▶ And if that's not enough for us, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Jesus takes His crystal clear message one step further and declares that ~ "No one comes to the Father ~ except ~ through" Him.

▷▷ 1 Jn. 2:23, ~ LEB ~ Everyone who denies the Son ~ does not have the Father either; ~ the one who confesses the Son ~ has the Father also.

▶▶ Contrary to popular belief ~ not all roads lead to heaven.

▷▷ There is only one road ~ and that is through Jesus Christ.

▶▶ As Peter, ~ speaking of Jesus, ~ in Acts 4:12 says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "there is salvation in no one else, ~ for there is no other name under heaven given among men ~ by which we must be saved." ¶¶ 5/7

LASTLY, ~ THE BIRTH OF JESUS REVEALS THE LOVE OF GOD.

JN. 3:16. ~~ NIV ~ FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD ~ THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND only Son, ~ that whoever believes in him ~ shall not perish ~ but have eternal life.

▶▶Now, ~ this in and of itself, ~ is amazing. ~~ But it's even more amazing when you study the details of this in the NT.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING.

▶▶1 Jn. 4:10. ~~ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

▷▷Loved ones, ~ this is real love.

↪↪Not that we loved God, ~ but that he loved us ~ and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

▶▶Over in Romans, ~ Paul says that we were God's enemies when we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.

▶▶And, ~ as we'll talk more about when we get to it in our series on Colossians, ~ Paul writes in Col. 1:21-22, ~ ¶¶

▷▷And you, ~ who once were alienated and hostile in mind, ~ doing evil deeds, ~ he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, ~ in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

▶▶In our unsaved state, ~ we did not love God. ~~ We were in fact ~ his enemies. ~~ We were allied with Satan and this evil world.

▷▷We were alienated from and hostile in mind toward God.

↪↪And yet, ~ God sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

▷▷Amazing love! how can it be ~ That Thou, ~ my God ~ shouldst die for me? ¶¶ 6/7

CONCLUSION.

MY . . . , ~ AS WE CLOSE THIS MORNING, ~ CONSIDER THIS ALWAYS.

▶▶ God's love for us did not stop at our conversion. ~ It will continue throughout eternity.

LOVED ONES, ~ WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE, ~ WHEN WE STARTED OUR series on Colossians and then again at the Thanksgiving Eve service.

▶▶ But it is so amazing and so wonderful, ~ that we should talk about it continuously.

▶▶ As we declared, ~ God the Father's love for us ~ is ~ unlimited ~ and unending.

▶▶ As the old hymn says: ~ "Could we with ink the ocean fill, ~ And were the skies of parchment made; ~ 77

▷▷ Were every stalk on earth a quill, ~ And every man a scribe by trade; ~ 77

↳↳ To write the love of God above ~ Would drain the ocean dry; ~ 77

→→ Nor could the scroll contain the whole, ~ Though stretched from sky to sky."

▶▶ My . . . , ~ God the Father's love for us ~ is ~ unlimited and unending.

▷▷ Rest ~ in that love. ~ Rejoice ~ in that love. ~ Be encouraged ~ by that love.

▶▶ And always remember, ~ our heavenly Father's mercy and willingness to forgive ~ is just ~ as unlimited and unending.

▷▷ Rest in this. ~ Rejoice in this. ~ Be encouraged by this.

LET'S PRAY 7/7