

Why Was Jesus Born? Matthew 1:18-25

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Whether summer, winter, spring, or fall, we _____ God that Christ Jesus came into this world. Today, we're asking the question _____ He came. We're here to _____ the Scriptures for God's will. We want to _____ what God says in the Bible on every topic, and the Bible says much about the birth of Jesus.

We know _____ about the birth of Jesus than we do about his first thirty years. Why is the birth of Jesus important? Most think of December 25 as the _____ Jesus was born. Actually, no one knows what day of the year that Jesus came into this world; and nothing in Scripture tells us to _____ his birth. While the Scriptures say nothing about when he was born, they say much about _____ he came to earth. There was never a birth in the _____ of the world as important as the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah!

What was so important? Micah predicted 700 years ahead of time that Jesus would be born in _____ (Micah 5:2). Isaiah 7:14, also 700 years before the time, predicted that He would be born of a _____; that's a miracle indeed! Isaiah 9:6 predicted, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Daniel 2, nearly 600 years ahead of time, predicted that He would come in the time of the fourth kingdom, speaking of the Roman Empire, and set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed.

Why was there a _____ to announce His birth and wise men seeking Him? Why did the angels predict _____ on earth and tell the shepherds to look for a baby lying in a manger? What difference does Jesus Christ make? Why did He come into the world?

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Matthew 1:18-25.

Betrothal in those days was a far _____ commitment than our engagements today. Betrothal, which commonly lasted a year, meant the bride and groom were officially _____ to each other but would not live together until the wedding day. Even before the wedding, they were considered as husbands and wives. The parents of the bride would watch their daughters closely to make sure they were _____ for their husbands. Mary was a pure virgin, and yet she conceived a child by the Holy Spirit during this time. Until an angel told Joseph the _____, he thought about putting her away; that is, divorcing his wife.

Mary's child was _____, unlike any other. He was the _____ Savior, the Messiah. The angel told Joseph His name would be called Jesus, because He would _____ His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The Scriptures continue: "All this took place to _____ what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until (that is, he didn't have

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relations with her until) she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.” Isaiah 7:14 predicted that a virgin who had _____ known a man would conceive and bear a child. This child was special! He would be “God with us.” God had come into the _____ in Jesus Christ!

The coming of Jesus into the world _____ us what God is really like. John 1:1-4 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was _____ God, and the Word _____ God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were _____ through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the _____ of men.” Jesus, as a person, has always existed as God and He was with the Father and was involved in the Creation. He brought _____ and spiritual _____ to this world. We shouldn’t think that the birth of Jesus was His beginning as a person. Jesus has _____ been. In his birth, however, he took a _____ form.

John 1:14 explains, “And the Word (speaking of Jesus) became _____ and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus was a _____, a gift of _____ for all of us. We have the forgiveness of sins because Jesus came to the world to _____ us from our sins. God so _____ the world that he gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, for our sins. He came with a body as a baby in order that as a man He might present Himself as a _____ for sins. Hebrews 10 helps us understand the great _____ of Jesus was to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world. We can hardly imagine a greater sacrifice. **Read what the Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 10:5-7.** At Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “Not my will, but Thine be done.” Jesus suffered a cruel death on the cross to _____ for our sins. He paid the _____ for our transgressions, our iniquities, and our sins. Such love is humbling and makes us ever _____ for His willingness to take away our sins.

The Lord Jesus said, “For the Son of Man has come to _____ and to _____ that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Jesus is looking for the spiritually _____ to help them find God and find salvation. **Read what Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:15-16.** That ought to give us all _____! God loves us _____, even in our sins. No matter who you are, there is hope for you. If you _____ yourself in faith and penitence before God and become _____ to His will, you’ll see that God’s forgiveness is greater than your sins. Don’t let anyone tell you that there’s no hope for you, that God doesn’t offer salvation to everybody. We need to know Jesus did _____ for every person and He offers His grace to those who will believe and obey Him. If the Lord could save the _____ of sinners; that is, Saul of Tarsus, the apostle Paul, He can save you. Jesus came to make a _____ in your life. He gave Himself and risked everything, because He knew the person that you could _____. He loved you that much.

We need to know there is a _____ to heaven for every one of us. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one _____ to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Jesus is indeed the way to life and the way to truth and the way to the Father. You can find that way by listening closely to Him and _____ His will. Jesus asks us to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses daily, and to follow Him (Luke 9:23). If you have been living your own life, following your own path, you may have found it hasn’t led you to the peace and joy that you want and _____. Many people think Jesus is a fairy tale, but those who take Him seriously find that He is indeed all

that He _____ to be.

Jesus is not only full of grace; He is also full of _____. We need something solid that we can _____ on. Jesus said to Pilate, “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear _____ to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my _____” (John 18:37). Jesus tells us what we need to hear, truth that will _____ us. When we listen and obey Him then we can find _____. People seek doctors to find cures, but cures only work when people _____ the instructions. In the same way, the Great Physician can help you spiritually if you _____ to His teaching. He can make a difference!

Imagine a man who has been involved in an accident and breaks his leg. The ambulance arrives with a doctor, and he says to the doctor, “Give me a sedative quickly for this terrible pain. That’s all I need – just something to knock me out!” A sedative will _____ the pain, but a sedative won’t _____ the problem. Unless the doctor fixes the break, puts things back into place, the man can _____ find healing and peace. Some folks think they can find a sedative to make their problems go away; but until they fix the _____ in their lives, they will continue to hurt and live broken lives. Jesus came to _____ with love and repentance and truth.

You can’t _____ your sins away. You can’t drink or drug them away. You can’t meditate on them or ignore them away. There is only one thing that will help you overcome the guilt of sin and that’s the _____ of Jesus Christ. That blood is applied to your soul to cleanse and free you from all the guilt of the past, and that takes place when you _____ the gospel, in faith, repentance, and baptism.

Faith is not some empty _____. It’s a deep trust in the _____ of God. Repentance is a change in your life, so that you can become someone _____, someone you can respect. In baptism, the blood of Jesus _____ you from sin and guilt. It causes you to be _____ again, to become a new person, free from that old way of life.

Jesus came to liberate you from the _____ of your past so that you can live victoriously and peacefully in the present and gloriously in the hereafter. Jesus said, “The thief comes only to _____ and kill and destroy. I came that they may have _____ and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Life in Christ is abundant. It’s filled with “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). It’s a liberating life that allows you to sleep with peace and confidence at night. It’s filled with goodness and righteousness and love. It has _____ and a future. Nothing, nothing is better than true Christianity!

You don’t have to live lonely, broken, angry, or defeated. You can _____ this abundant life in Christ Jesus. He came to earth to make it all possible for you. He lived a _____ life so that you could follow in His steps, He established a _____ for you to be in His family; He gave us a _____ to give us hope and instruction in how to live; and He has planned an eternity of glory for us to live with Him forever. Jesus came because He had enough faith in humanity and in you to suffer and die for you. He knew that people could become godly, could love righteousness, and could fill the earth with goodness and joy. He came to earth to transform sinful people into _____.

An angel said at the birth of Jesus, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great

_____ that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). I hope the joy of that day brings you joy. I hope you realize in your heart what a great _____ Jesus is to this world. Don’t take this gift lightly. Don’t live your life as if Jesus doesn’t _____. Knowing Him is the _____ important thing that will ever happen in this life! Love Him, embrace Him, come to Him, and serve Him. Let the sacrifice He made on the cross for you _____ your stony heart and cause you to change your life.

Jesus came to _____, so that you could come to _____. Jesus said, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Why not decide today to _____ to the Lord? Get back to church! Get back to righteous living! Get back to love and faith and hope and peace in Christ. Let His joy and love once again fill your life with every good thing as you give yourself to Him. Don’t wait another day to obey the gospel. Obey it by faith, repentance and baptism.

Jesus came two thousand years ago to _____ us from our sins. He is coming _____ for his own, to bless and keep them. When Jesus comes again, He will be glorified in His saints. We will all be changed. We’ll be _____ from the corruptible body to an incorruptible one. This earthly body will be changed into a _____ one. He’ll usher us into heaven, where He has _____ a place for us to live with Him forever and ever. It’s a place without disease, without death, and without sorrow, a place pure and holy. It’s the place where God _____, and He has reserved a dwelling place for every one of His children who love Him and serve Him.

Jesus came to earth in the first century, and He will come again at the _____ of time. Scripture teaches us to _____ for His second coming. He’s coming to save those who _____. “Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). If we love God, we want to _____ Him by placing our trust in Him. Faith, however, is not _____ that’s necessary to please Him. We also must turn _____ from sin in repentance and turn _____ Him in obedience. Loving God means _____ what is right and _____ what is wrong. With love, faith, and repentance, we also need to _____ that Jesus Christ is God’s Son and be baptized into Christ. When we’re baptized, God _____ away our sins with the blood of Jesus. He _____ us from sin, makes us His children, and adds us to His church. In Christ, we are heirs of heaven.

I hope that you won’t wait a _____ day to become a child of God who follows Christ. When Jesus comes, He will come for you? Though He has prepared a way for us to live with Him forever, some people don’t prepare for Him. Some live in rebellion to God, and others just don’t _____. They ignore the warnings to repent and turn deaf ears to the call of the _____ message. They live self-centered lives, never appreciating the grace of the Lord or the truth of His Word. I hope you’re not among that crowd. Today is a day to _____ with hope, because Jesus has come into this world to bring life and light, to bring joy and peace, to bring salvation, and to bring the truth. These are wondrous gifts for all people. Let us rejoice in them and give ourselves to our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.