

"Why Was Jesus Born?"

Whether summer, winter, spring, or fall, we thank God, Christ Jesus came into this world.

Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." And today we're asking the question why He came. So stay with us.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. We want to hear what God says in the Bible on every topic, and the Bible says much about the birth of Jesus. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be a part of your life each week.

We know more about the birth of Jesus than we do his first thirty years. Well, why is the birth of Jesus important? Well, most think of December 25 as the day 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 celebrate his birth. While the Scriptures say nothing about when he was born, they say much about why he came to earth. There was never a birth in the history of the world as important as the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah!

Well what was so important? Well, Micah predicted 700 years ahead of time that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5 and verse 2). Isaiah 7:14, also 700 years before the time, predicted that He would be born of a virgin, that's a miracle indeed! Isaiah 9 and verse 6 predicts, "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 star to announce His birth and wise men seek Him? Why did the angels predict peace 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?

Well we offer this study on Jesus' coming into the world free. And if you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study and live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website at www.searchtv.org.

The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Matthew 1:18 to 25, and then we'll explore the reasons why Jesus was born!

Our reading today comes from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 1 verses 18 to 25.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

That's a reading from God's Holy Word. Let's pray together. Father we're so grateful that the Lord Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins and to give us hope in life. And Father help us to serve Him always and to love You. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Betrothal in those days was a far greater commitment than our engagements today. Betrothal, which commonly lasted a year, meant the bride and groom were officially pledged to each other but would not live together until the wedding day. Now 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 pure for their husbands. Mary was a pure virgin, and yet she conceived a child by the Holy Spirit during this time. Now until an angel told Joseph the truth, he thought about putting her away, that is divorcing his wife.

Now Mary's child was special, unlike any other. He was the promised Savior, the Messiah. The angel told Joseph His name would be called Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1 and verse 21). Now the Scriptures continue that : "All this took place to fulfill 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 relations with her until) she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus." Now Isaiah in chapter 7, verse 14, predicted that a virgin, who had never known a man, would conceive and bear a child. This child was special! He would be "God with us." And God had come into the world in Jesus Christ!

The coming of Jesus into the world teaches us really what God is like. John 1:1 to 4 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men." Now Jesus as a person has always existed as God and He was with the Father and was involved in the Creation. He brought life and spiritual light to this world. We shouldn't think that the birth of Jesus was His beginning as a person. Oh no, Jesus has always been. In his birth, however, he took a new form.

John 1:14 explains, "And the Word (speaking of Jesus) became flesh 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." Now Jesus was a gift. A gift of grace for all of us. And we have the forgiveness of sins because Jesus came to the world to save us from our sins. God so loved 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 sacrifice for sins. Hebrews 10 helps us understand the great mission of Jesus was to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world. And we can hardly imagine a greater sacrifice.

The Hebrew writer said, "Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, But a body You have prepared for Me; In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) To do Your will, O God.'" (Heb. 10 verses 5 to 7). Now at Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Jesus suffered a cruel death on the cross to atone for our sins. He paid the price for our transgressions, our iniquities, and our sins. Such love is humbling and makes us ever grateful for His willingness to take away our sins.

The Lord Jesus said in Luke 19 and verse 10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus is looking for the spiritually lost to help them find God and find salvation. Jesus said in 1 Timothy 1:15 to 16, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom (Paul says) I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I

found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.” Now that ought to give us all hope! God loves us all, even in our sins.

And no matter who you are, there is hope for you. If you humble yourself in faith and penitence before God and become obedient 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. That yes we need to know Jesus did die for every person and He offers His grace to those who will believe and obey Him. If the Lord could save the chief of sinners, that is Saul of Tarsus the apostle Paul, He can save you. Jesus came to make a difference in your life. And He gave Himself and risked everything, because He knew the person that you could become. And He loved you that much.

We need to know there is a way to heaven for every one of us. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” I tell you 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 obeying His will. Jesus asks us to deny ourselves, to take up our crosses daily, and to follow Him (Luke 9 verse 23). Now 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 seek. Many people think Jesus is a fairy tale, but those who take Him seriously find that He is indeed all that He claims to be.

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

Now imagine a man who has been involved in an accident and breaks his leg. And 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 is just something to knock me out!” Now a sedative will ease the pain, yes, but a sedative won't correct the problem. And unless the doctor fixes the break, puts things back into place, the man can never find healing and peace. You know some folks think they can find a sedative to make their problems go away, but until they fix the sin in their lives, they will continue to hurt and live broken lives. Jesus came to heal with love and repentance and truth.

And you can't wish your sins away. You can't drink or drug them away. You can't meditate them or ignore them away. There is only one thing that will help you overcome the guilt of sin: and that's the blood 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 obey the gospel. In faith, repentance and baptism.

Now faith is not some empty desire. It's a deep trust in the promises of God. And repentance is a change in your life, so that you can become someone new, someone you can respect. In baptism the blood of Jesus cleanses you from sin and guilt. It causes you to be born again, to become a new person, free from that old way of life.

Jesus came to liberate you from the guilt of your past so that you can live victoriously and peacefully in the present and gloriously in the hereafter. Jesus said in John 10 and verse 10 that, “The thief comes only to steal and (to) kill and (to) destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” Life in Christ is abundant. It's filled with “love, (and) joy, peace, patience, kindness,

goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; (and) against such things there is no law" (Gal. 5 verses 22 to 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 hope and a future. And nothing, nothing, nothing is better than true Christianity!

Now you don't have to live life lonely, broken, angry, or defeated. You can have this abundant life in Christ Jesus. And He came earth to make it all possible for you. He lived a model life so that you to follow in His steps, He established a church for you to be in His family, He gave us a Bible 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 people, could love righteousness, and could fill the earth with goodness and joy. He came to earth to transform sinful people into saints.

An angel said at the birth of Jesus, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy 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 verses 10 and 11). Oh, I hope that the joy of that day brings you joy. I hope in your heart, you realize what a great gift Jesus is to this world. Don't take this gift lightly. Don't live your life as if Jesus doesn't matter. Knowing Him is the most important thing that will ever happen in this life! Love Him, embrace Him, come to Him, and serve Him. And let the sacrifice that He made on the cross for you melt your stony heart and cause you to change your life.

Jesus came to you, so that you could come to Him. Jesus said in Matthew 11 verse 28 to 30, "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."

Why not decide today to come 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. And obey it by faith, repentance and being baptism.

Jesus came two thousand years ago to save us from our sins. And He is coming again for his own, to bless and keep them. And when Jesus comes again, He will be glorified in His saints. And we will all be changed. We'll be changed from the corruptible body to an incorruptible one. This earthly body will be changed into a heavenly one when He comes. He'll usher us into heaven, where He has prepared 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 dwells, and He has reserved a dwelling place for every one of His children who love Him and serve Him. Let's pray. Oh Father help us to love You every day of our lives. To serve You and to live for You. Realizing the great sacrifice our Lord Jesus came to this earth to make. And Father may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jesus came to earth in the first century, and He will come again at the end of time. Scripture teaches us to prepare for His second coming. Now He's coming to save those who believe. "Without faith," Hebrews 11:6 says, "it is impossible to please God." If we love God, we want to please Him by placing our trust in Him. Faith, however, is not all that's necessary to please Him. We also must turn away from sin in repentance and turn to Him in obedience. Loving God means loving what is right and leaving what is wrong. With love, faith, and repentance, we also need to confess Jesus Christ is God's Son and be baptized into Christ. When we're baptized, God washes away our sins with the blood of

Jesus. He frees 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 single day to become a child of God who follows Christ. When Jesus comes, He will come for you? And 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 care. They ignore the warnings to repent and turn deaf ears to the call of the gospel 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 rejoice 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. Now these are wondrous gifts for all people. Let us rejoice in them and give ourselves to our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

We hope that today's study about Jesus Christ, has stirred you to consider your soul and to think about what God says in The Word. Now if you live in the United States and you want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, then mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now you can download these lessons or a newsletter online at our website: www.searchtv.org. You can also watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Yes, on YouTube. Just subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." Also on our website are a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches that are in your area. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. And people love to take them. Now if you get a hold of us don't worry, we're not here to get your money. We're not out to exploit anybody. We're here to help you get to heaven.

We do ask that you please get involved with a church of Christ. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. Well, we'll be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about this program. Let them know that you're watching and encourage them to watch as well. So as always, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.