

Christmas—Lord and Child

Central Theme

We celebrate the birth of the Christ child, but believers should think about what it means for the creator of the universe to be born as a child.

Outline

1. During this time of year, I remember Christmas time when I was a child.
 - a. Grandparents House
 - a.i. Reading the Night Before Christmas.
 - a.ii. Stockings, tree & presents.
 - b. I did not grow up in a religious household.
 - b.i. Christmas was about Santa Claus and gifts.
 - c. When I became a believer, Christmas became about the child in the manger.
 - c.i. Believers often think of the Christ child this time of year.
 - c.ii. I remember what Paul said:

1 Corinthians 13:11 (AV)

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

- d. Today I am a man in Christ. I've tried to put away the childish things and focus on the real meaning of Christmas.
 - d.i. Yes, Christmas is about the babe in the manger.
 - d.ii. But how often do we truly consider who that babe is?

John 1:1-2 (AV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 (AV)

And the Word was made 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.

2. Here we see Jesus as God, not when He was born, but from the beginning.
 - a. Compare this to the other Gospels record Jesus' birth:

Matthew 1:22-23 (AV)

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a

son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

- a.i. Matthew focuses on the virgin conception of Jesus.

Mark 1:9 (AV)

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

- a.ii. Mark doesn't even discuss Jesus birth but starts with John the Baptist and introduces Jesus as a grown man coming to be baptized.

Luke 2:6-7 (AV)

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

- a.iii. Luke focuses on the birth of Jesus.
 - a.iii.1. Yes, Luke also tells us about the host of angels appearing to the shepherds and the Magi's visit.
 - a.iii.2. But little is said about the deity of Christ.
- 3. Christ was not just there at the beginning. John calls Jesus the Word.
 - a. [*logos* /**log**·os/]
 - a.i. 1a a word, uttered by a living voice, embodies a conception or idea.
 - a.ii. 1b3 decree, mandate or order.
 - a.iii. 1c1 the act of speaking, speech.
 - b. Notice that "Word" is capitalized.
 - b.i. That means it's a proper noun, not just a part of speech.
- 4. And this Word was in the beginning with God, before the creation.

Genesis 1:1-5 (AV)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

- a. Who do you think was the Word that God spoke? Who do you think was making the light?

John 1:3-5 (AV)

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

5. Remember the books & movies based on the Hobbit. J.R.R. Tolkien created an entire world. He called it "Middle Earth". He created lands and people, but they only existed in his head and the mind of the reader.
 - a. God spoke, and the pre-incarnate Christ created the real world. He created not only the world, but the entire universe. He created peoples and animals, lands and plants. More than that, He created time and space, by which we measure everything else!
6. While Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the Son of God has existed from eternity past.

Isaiah 9:6a (AV)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:

While the child Jesus was born 2000 years ago, the Son of God exists in eternity and was given to us.

The Son of God appeared many times in the Old Testament:

Genesis 18:1-2 (AV)

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

Numbers 22:22 (AV)

And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants *were* with him.

- a. You know how to tell if an angel is an incarnation of God?
 - a.i. Referred to as "the Angel of the Lord" with a capital "A".
 - a.ii. The angel does not object when men bow down to Him.
7. This is the being who was born a child in Bethlehem.
 - a. If J.R.R. Tolkien were to enter his world, how would he do so?
 - a.i. Would he come as a prince or a pauper?

- a.ii. Would he be an elf or a simple hobbit?
- a.iii. Would he have power like the wizard Gandalf?
- b. Jesus did not enter His creation this way:
 - b.i. He did not come as a prince or a priest.
 - b.ii. He did not come at first as a prophet or teacher.

Luke 2:4-7 (AV)

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

- c. Jesus came into His creation as a newborn child.
 - c.i. He needed to be fed and clothed.
 - c.ii. He needed to be carried and taught to walk.
 - c.iii. He needed to be changed.
- d. Can you think of a more humble and dependent creature? Yet that was how the creator of and most power being in the universe chose to enter His creation.

Luke 2:18-19 (AV)

And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.

- e. The shepherds wondered at what this babe would do.
 - e.i. Mary kept them in her heart.
 - e.ii. A heart that would one day be broken by a cross on calvary.
- 8. We celebrate the birth of the Christ child, which is good.
 - a. Let us also celebrate the love that would humble our creator to the point of dependence on His creation.
 - b. And the love that would leave Him in the hands of the race that had rejected His paradise.
 - c. The love that would do all this knowing that one day one day that race would deny and crucify Him.
 - d. Let us wonder at the things this babe did, and continues to do to this day.
 - d.i. Let us keep these things in our hearts, not just in this Christmas season, but all year round.