

Begotten Son or Forgotten Son!

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It began in Bethlehem—the virgin birth was very *unique* as it enabled Jesus to be our Savior. That once-in-a-lifetime event gives us hope for the holiday—and beyond, maybe into eternity—but the *choice* to *rejoice* and *believe* is up to us!

As the innkeeper, we decide if there is *room* in our *heart* for Jesus to come in and control our attitudes—as we interact with family, friends, and others. Everyone makes *mistakes*; Everyone needs a *Messiah*; We have all *sinned*; We all need *forgiveness*.

Satan is determined to *destroy* anyone who will allow him! We need to follow God's *specific plan*. AV Matthew 1:21 “*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*”

If we *follow* His plan, the *wrong* shall fail, and the *right* prevail. The angel said AV Luke 2:10 “*Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*”

So many do not see the holiday as a time of *good tidings* or *great joy*! Millions are saddened by thoughts of the past or losses remembered. But the angel says it is *good news* and it brings *great joy*—so we thank God for the gift of His only **begotten Son!** He is *never* to be the **forgotten Son!**

AV John 12:46 “*I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*” Satan's *darkness* cannot overpower Messiah's *light*. We *know* of God's plan of life, but after *knowing* it, we have to *live* it. Our

attention and our *faith* is to be focused on the sacrifice the **begotten Son** of God made for us.

The season is about *loving* others, showing *good will* toward all, and *thanking* God for the greatest of all Gifts! AV 1 John 4:8 “*God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only **begotten Son** into the world, that we might live through him.*” We must make **room** for **Him!**

This season represents *good will*; *kind thoughts*; *giving gifts*; and *pleasant feelings* toward others. We have to be on guard because the evil one tries to have us be resentful about *something* or *anything* or *anyone*! We must be NKJV Ephesians 4:32 “*Kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*”

The *love*, *concern*, and *kindness* we see this season *must* continue long *after* the holiday—it is the *reason* for the *season*—remembering the Lord's words—to love each *other* as He loves us—to show *kindness* and *consideration* toward family, friends, and everyone!

People come **first**—**Things** come **second!** AV 1 John 5:2 “*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.*”

Joseph's response to Mary's condition reminds us to always consider the *feelings* of others—put ourselves in *their* place. Joseph did not want to cause Mary any embarrassment Matthew 1:19.

We are not always that thoughtful—but we *should* be! All too few show any consideration toward their spouse—but if they did, many more marriages would be *solved*—**not dissolved**.

The Lord appears WEY Matthew 1:20 “*Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to bring home your*

wife Mary, for she is with child through the Holy Spirit.” This *verifies* the *deity* of Christ as God in *nature* and human in *form*.

Payment for the sins of the world through a sacrifice of atonement would *not* be possible if God had *not* become *man*. Jesus was both human and divine, so His *sacrifice* was accepted.

It was the Divine Trinity of *three* Persons acting as *One* Person to give salvation through faith in the *second* Person.

The Jews knew NKJV Micah 5:2 “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.*”

The birth at Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy of—AV Isaiah 7:14 “*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel; God with us*” Matthew 1:23.

The *unique* birth of Christ is of the greatest significance. As Joseph slept God appears, AV Matthew 1:24 “*Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him.*” He took Mary as wife but did not live with her until “*She had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.*”

Joseph could now *rejoice* because of the privilege of raising God's Son. Mary remained a virgin until *after* Jesus was born, and she needed salvation like us. AV Luke 1:46 “*My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*”

Many do not believe a virgin birth is possible—which shows how prevalent *unbelief* and *rebellion* is toward God today—and how

much influence Satan has over people. The devil has convinced the world to accept a *lie* and reject the *Truth*.

The *divinity* of Christ; His *virgin birth*; His *sinless life* on earth, and His *resurrection* from the grave by divine power are of **vital** importance. AV Romans 3:23 “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” Only God in Person, as Jesus on earth, could pay for all sins!

The genealogy of Christ affirms the credentials of our Lord. He was NKJV Luke 3:38 “*The son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*” When Adam sinned by disobeying God, every descendant of his has been affected by that sinful act.

Jesus came as the kind of man Adam was *before* he sinned. Jesus had no sin and He obeyed His Father’s will in everything—that is why God said AV Luke 3:22 “*Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*”

While on earth, Jesus had to deal with situations like we all do—He was tempted, persecuted, rejected, and ridiculed. He dealt with those things as both God and human.

The family line of Christ is a list of Hebrew names—and a testimony to God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness. Jesus said AV Luke 5:32 “*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*”

Regardless of the number or the gravity of our *sins*, we are *accepted* when we *repent* of them. We are invited into His family of believers by our choice to return to God. We just need to *accept* His offer of forgiveness; *forgive* everyone who has offended us; and start a *new life* of *faith* in *God* by the *power* of His Spirit.

The unique plan of God—the virgin birth, Jesus’ ministry, His perfect sacrifice of

Atonement, and His resurrection to life has never been duplicated! It is *good news of great joy* to all who *believe* and *receive* the Lord Jesus into their heart. As an innkeeper, **we** decide if there is room in our *heart* for His control of our life!

Christmas is the powerful story of the Nativity—and is still relevant to today! *Before* Bethlehem; *before* shepherds, before wise men, Caesar Augustus and the innkeeper—takes us back to Genesis!

Redemption began in Eden with the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve lived in a perfect environment—no sin, no guilt, and no shame. They had one restriction—*Do not eat from that one tree!* They could eat from any of the other trees—just not from *that* one.

Humans are always *attracted* to whatever is *forbidden*—we are continuously drawn to what we are **not** supposed to *have* or *see* or *take*. To this day, the serpent is enticing the world to *enter* forbidden areas and to *indulge* in forbidden pleasures.

NIV Genesis 3:15 “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*”

Christmas is all about why *Jesus* was born in Bethlehem—Jesus had to be *God* who became *man!* Before there was a world; before there were planets; before there was light—there was the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. AV John 1:1 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*”

Jesus did not stay in Heaven but entered a dangerous world to save our soul! He lived our *life* and died our *death* to save us from our *sins!* Jesus did not become *identical to* us but He *identified with* us.

Christmas was not just the *arrival* of the Messiah, but a *fulfillment* of a promise. AV Isaiah 9:6 “*For unto us a **child** is born, unto us a **son** is given.*” He dealt with oppressive governments; He *Counsels* us as God, and He gives us peace as the ever-living One!

Many things happen in this world that make people fearful—but we need to remember that God is in control, and He will not abandon anyone who is willing to *believe* and ready to *trust* Him.

We are not alone— “*They shall call his name **Emmanuel—God with us.***” The message of Christmas is that God *entered* our world; He *became* man; *died* on a cross and He *rose* to life to give us a *new life* of faith in Him.

It all results in **eternal life** by our right choice to believe and trust Him and *never* forget He is the **begotten Son** of God!

It is the message of the season; It is the living hope we have every day! It’s not about presents *under the tree*; it’s about our Savior *on a tree* to pay for the sins *in our life!* It’s about our making **room** in our *heart* for His **presence** in our *life!*



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