

BIBLE TRUTH

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'In the beginning
God created
the heaven and the earth.'

Genesis ch.1 v.1



THE FIRST COMING OF THE LORD

by the late J.W. (Bill) Gray

The birth and life of our Lord fulfilled many prophecies spoken by the prophets of the Old Testament.

The first important announcement of the birth of the Messiah was made known to representatives of the Aaronic and Levitic priesthoods by Zacharias while officiating in the Temple, when the Angel made known to him that he would be dumb until the birth of his son John. As he and his wife Elizabeth were very old, the child John the Baptist, was born out of due time; therefore, it was a miraculous birth. This was a prelude to the advent of our Lord, ignored by the priesthood, but believed by Zacharias and Elizabeth. The priests who should have known from the prophets, ignored all the prophecies.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was born of miraculous birth, wise men from the east who had seen the signs in the heavens which told of the birth of a King of Israel, made their journey to Jerusalem to give their gifts and worship to the new-born king. Thus, the wise men knew the time of the birth. As they expected the new king to be born in the palace they went to Herod and he called the priesthood to him, who told him where the child was to be born. It was to be in Bethlehem, according to the prophecy.

'But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.'

Micah ch.5 v.2

Thus the time and place was made known to the priests and people.

To the humble shepherds watching their flocks by night the angels told the news of the manifestation, and they saw the heavenly host. The angels announced the birth of the Messiah, born in humility in a stable. Thus to the wise men, King Herod and the shepherds, the time, place and manner of His birth were told, and each bore out the fact that, the Lord Jesus Christ was of the House of David.

To Simeon, who came daily to the Temple, it was revealed by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple it was revealed to Simeon that this child was the Messiah and caused him to utter the following words,

'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,'.

Luke ch.2 vv 29-30

To the prophetess Anna, who served God with fastings and prayers day and night, it was revealed from on high that the child would be born about that time. She made a personal witness to all those who looked for the redemption, that in Jerusalem the child Jesus was in the Temple that day.

The Scriptures made known that the Lord would be born of a pure virgin. When Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her and that she was to become the mother of a son, Mary answered the angel, and said,

'... How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God'.

Luke ch.1 vv 34-35

The Lord needed no earthly father to supply the seed of life for He was living before the natal day: it was His eternal life that gave life to all mankind, and that life is life indeed.

'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. 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.'

John ch.1 vv 1-4

Saint Paul writing to the Corinthians states,

'The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven'.

1 Corinthians ch.15 v.47

This may be read in the Epistle to the Philippians.

'Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:'

Philippians ch.2 vv 6-7

Thus we see that Christ of the ages, willingly, by Himself and of His own act entered into the womb of a virgin as the seed of His own life, for a period of time until the body of a mother had given Him an earthly body for Himself.

‘And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.’

1 Timothy ch.3 v.16

God promised that He would be the Saviour and Redeemer of His people Israel, the Saviour of the world. The eternal Christ laid aside His glory, entered the Adamic race and was made a perfect man: so Jesus was born. ‘Christ’ is the name of His Godhead and His eternity (past, present and future). Jesus was not, until He was born of Mary, so the Lord Jesus Christ is the Eternal King of all ages.

The people of Judah and the southern part of Palestine had experienced wars, invasions and frustrations for many years, and the religious life was at a very low ebb. The two religious sects, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, both adulterating the teaching of the Law and the Prophets by mixing with them teachings of men embodied in the ‘Talmud’ flourished and directed the religious thought of their day. It was at this time, **when the Darkness** of the land was intensified by the internal and external conditions at the midnight hour of their history, that the divine clock chimed and the advent hour arrived. The divine clock heralded the advent of our Lord.

The purpose of our Lord’s coming is clearly revealed to us in the Scriptures but can only be understood fully in the context of God’s plan for His people Israel, and for all mankind. These few Scriptures, among many, state of Him as follows.

‘He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever;’

Luke ch.1 vv 32-33

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,’

Luke ch.1 v.68

‘That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;’

Luke ch.1 v.71

‘To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,’

Luke ch.1 vv 72-73

‘To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,’

Luke ch.1 v.77

‘To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.’

Luke ch.1 v.79

‘A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.’

Luke ch.2 v.32

Thus the Bible clearly reveals the fact that Jesus was born of Mary, was the Son of God and became man. It shows also the full purpose of the manifestation of Himself to the world.
