

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Baby Jesus

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Jesus, the eternal Word, became flesh through physical birth. He did not enter the world like Adam, full grown and mature; but as an infant or as a baby. What does the Bible teach us as to the meaning of Jesus' birth?

The miraculous nature of Jesus' birth emphasizes His Divine nature as the Son of God. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus was “born of a woman” (*Galatians 4:4*). Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, not by Joseph (*Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 2:34*). She understood, “...*the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God (Luke 2:35)*).

When Jesus became a baby, He identified with man. Like man, He partook of flesh and blood. This had a definite purpose. By partaking of flesh and blood, Jesus could die and therefore “...*through death bring to naught him that had the power of death, that is the devil (Hebrews 2:14)*”). Because Jesus is the “son of man”, God gave Him authority to execute future judgment upon man (*John 5:27*).

Baby Jesus emphasizes His dual nature of being both God and

man. Baby Jesus is both the “Son of God”, and the “son of man”.

Jesus' birth also tells us that Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled. Isaiah prophesied that a “*virgin*” would bring forth a child (*Isaiah 7:14*). Baby Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. Indeed, His name “*Immanuel*” was fitting, for God was literally with man in the person of Jesus, the Son of God (*Matthew 1:23*). Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (*Micah 5:2*). The birth of Jesus took place in Bethlehem as prophesied some 750 years before (*Matthew 2:1*). God's miraculous hand is behind the birth of Jesus.

Those who were close to baby Jesus were able to bear witness to facts as to what Jesus would become and accomplish. These would not be accomplished as a baby. He would grow to maturity (*Luke 2:52*); yet on the day of Jesus' birth, angelic voices unite to send praise to God in the highest part of heaven in anticipating the peace that would come to those who believe in His Son (*Luke 2:14, Romans 5:1*). The shepherds were told to witness the new born baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger knowing that he was the “*Saviour*” who is “*Christ the Lord*”

(*Luke 2:11*). Simeon, being led by the Spirit, held the forty-day old baby Jesus and blessed God for allowing him to see God's “*salvation*” for all people (*Luke 2:28-32*). Anna, the prophetess gave thanks to God, “*and spake of Him to all them that were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem (Luke 2:38)*”). Jesus would fulfill all these reasons for thanking God through His death and resurrection from the dead (*Acts 2:23-36, I Peter 1:18-19*).

The wise men came to worship the King of the Jews. Jesus was by then a young child, not a babe in swaddling clothes. He was in a house, not a manger (*Matthew 2:8,11*). Jesus, referring to His kingship before Pilate, said, “*to this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth (John 18:37)*”). Jesus was born to be King, and reigns now in His kingdom, (*Lk 1:32-33; Col.1:13*).

While we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, knowing it was essential in God's plan to save us, we assemble every first day of the week to remember Jesus' death (*Acts 20:7, I Cor. 11:26*). Through Jesus' death Christians have peace (*Eph. 2:13*), and commemorate such weekly.