

# GLAD TIDINGS

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

Vol. IX

December 3, 2000

No. 49

## The meaning of baby jesus

*By: Jerry Fite*

**J**esus, the eternal Word, became flesh through a 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” (Gal.4:4). Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, not by Joseph (Matt. 1:18, 20; Lk. 2:34). She understood, “...the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God” (Lk. 2:35).

When Jesus became a baby, he identified with man. Like man, He partook of flesh and blood. This had a future 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” (Heb. 2:14). Because Jesus is the “son of man”, God gave Him the 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 (Lk. 2:52). The shepherds were told to witness the new born baby wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in the manger knowing that he was the “Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk. 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 (Lk. 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 (Lk 2:38). Jesus would fulfill all these reasons for thanking God through his death as an adult 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 then a young child, not a babe in swaddling cloths. He was in a house, not a manger (Matt. 2:8, 11). Jesus, later 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 He now reigns in his Kingdom, the church (Lk. 1:32-33; Acts 2:30-33; Matt. 16:18-19; Col. 1:13 ).

The resurrected Lord said we should obey all things which he has commanded us (Matt. 28:18-20). While we learn many things about baby Jesus in Scripture, not once does the Lord command or authorize us to celebrate his birthday. So, as followers of the Lord, we don't.