

Who Am I?

Unlocking and Understanding the Mystery of Christ

Week Three

Day Three

A BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:11-12)



Unlocking the Mystery

The Jewish people were ready to appoint an earthly king back on the throne in Jerusalem. They were sick and tired of the Roman Empire ruling over them. Instead of an earthly king coming in pomp and circumstance, this king came as a lowly baby. The mystery is how this baby will grow to be an eternal king ruling over and loving an eternal kingdom that accepts people from every nation and tribe. In today’s lesson, we will discover who Jesus came for as we study the people that came to Him to celebrate His birth.



Understanding the Word

To grasp the picture surrounding Christ’s birth we must **DIG DEEPER** and **SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES** of two Gospels, the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

DIGGING DEEPER: Matthew 1 and 2; Luke 1- 2:1-40

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 1:26-38

V. 26-28 God sent the _____ Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a _____ pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

V. 31 “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name _____.
He will be great and will be called the Son of _____. The Lord God will give
Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob _____;
His kingdom will _____.”

V. 34-35 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit
will come upon you, and the _____ of the _____ will
overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the _____”

V. 38 “I am the Lord’s servant, _____ to me as you have said. Then the angel left her.

Why would this young girl be chosen to give birth to and mother the Christ? In your reading, you will see she was highly favored. We see Mary as a very submissive and humble servant of God. She could not have even remotely prepared for the task given her by God. She trusted Him and had faith that His ways were greater than her ways. This comes from a lifestyle devoted to God and not to the ways of the world where selfishness is first and foremost.

I must pause here for a moment... one of the foundational truths of Mary being a virgin and giving birth to Jesus, the Son of God is trying to be explained away or completely denied by many mainline churches of today. Please allow this Scripture to saturate your heart and your mind and become such a reality that you never question that Jesus IS the Son of God, and WAS born of the virgin, Mary. If He isn’t really who He says He is, then He does not have the power to forgive our sins, and His sacrificial death meant nothing except that a good man died.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 1:18-24

V. 19 Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, had had in mind to _____ her quietly.

V. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is _____ in her is from the _____. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name of Jesus, because He will _____ His people from their sins.”

V. 24-25 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had _____ with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

Joseph was no one extraordinary. He was a hard-working man that God found to be righteous (just, godly, honest, virtuous, good). He had to be a man, like Mary, that was devoted to God. He had every right to divorce her, but once he heard from God he went against all of the Law and took her to be his wife and to care for the Christ child.

When you are more concerned about God's desires than those of your own, you begin to hear from God and He empowers you to do what He calls you to do. It's called walking by faith with integrity.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 2:4-7

V. 4 They were living in Nazareth in Galilee and went to _____ the town of David, because he belonged to _____.

V. 6 While they were there, the _____ came for the baby to be _____, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a _____ because there was no room for them in the inn.

In this passage, we see that God did not send Jesus to be born of fame and fortune. He came as a lowly baby to ordinary people, born in a manger. Often times, it is the ordinary person or those without high profile positions in life that can accept Jesus much easier. People that have preconceived ideas of Christianity, or people that are more concerned about what others think of them than they are of what God thinks, are often the people that miss Jesus altogether.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 2:8-20

V. 8 And there were _____ living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks nearby... V. 9 An _____ of the Lord appeared to them...

V. 15 "Let's go to _____ and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Who were the first to hear the BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT? The lowly shepherds were. They were not in high social standing, but they heard the announcement, received it as truth and acted upon hearing the truth in faith. They went not only to see the baby, but to worship Him as well.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 2:1-12

V.1-2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, _____
from the east came following a _____ to _____ the king of the Jews.

V. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and
_____ Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of
_____, and of _____, and of _____.

The presence of these WISE MEN was pretty astounding. They were not of the Jewish decent; they were Gentiles. They were scholars that knew about the coming of the desired King of the Jews. They were amazed at this new star but knew it was in accordance with the birth of the new King. They wanted to marvel at this event, so they came bearing gifts and came to worship this king of the Jews. By the way, the gifts they gave were prophetic to His life. The gold recognized Him as a King and as the Son of God. The Frankincense was a special perfume or incense that was used in the Temple worship representing the recognition of Jesus as a Priest. The Myrrh was a spice used in the embalming process recognizing Jesus as a Sacrifice or Savior.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES: Luke 2:21-40

V. 22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to _____ to present Him to the Lord...

V. 24 and to offer a _____ in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord...

V. 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called _____, who was a righteous and devout man.

V. 26. It had been _____ to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's _____.

V. 28 he took Him in his arms and praised God.

V. 43 Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul, too.

V. 36 There was also a _____, Anna.

V. 37 ...She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

**V. 38 Coming up to them at the very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke _____
to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.**

These two people were devout Jews. They not only knew of the coming of the Messiah (Savior), they lived their lives in expectation of seeing the Holy One and believing He would come in their lifetime. .

They lived passionate lives in the presence of God desiring only that they would one day go on to be with Him.

There was great anticipation of the coming of the Lord as Savior (Messiah), and King. Many people were looking toward the event and looking for the kind of person they thought it would be. There were the Jews; the devote ones looking and waiting in complete faithfulness. They were living their lives as though He would show up any minute. There were the Jews that were high up in authority over the people. They knew the Scriptures and the prophetic writings, yet they were the ones that could not accept this man to be the long desired Messiah because He did not arrive as they thought He should.



There were people outside of the religious sect that were able to respond in faithfulness to the BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT that the Messiah had come. There were Gentiles that had nothing to do with Jewish Law or culture yet recognized Jesus for who He was.

Jesus came for all. He wants none to perish, but all to have eternal life through Him. His birth came when the time was right. His birth came to all people because the plan of salvation has come to all people. No more are we Jew and Gentile, but we are all sons and daughters of God, joint heirs with Jesus; one body loving and serving the Lord.

As for Mary and Joseph, let us look to see their example of how God can and will find favor with those that love Him. Let us look to see their example of how to respond when God chooses to use us ordinary people in a plan that is extraordinary. Let us look to see their example of how to live with integrity every day of our lives.

