

The Reason Jesus Came Matthew 1:21

Two of the most important questions for each person to answer are,

1. “Who is Jesus Christ?”
2. “Why did He come to earth?”

Paul says that Christ is the Chief Treasure, the Basis, the Foundation, and the Sum Total of all things, in whom and under whom all are gathered together. In Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden Col. 2:3

The Christmas story is not primarily about the birth of a baby who would grow up to become a great moral teacher and example, although Jesus did become those things.

- It is the profound story of the birth of the **Savior**.
- After explaining that Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit, the angel told Joseph, “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).
- The Hebrew name Jesus = Joshua means “Jehovah is salvation.”
- If you do not know Jesus as your Savior, then you do not know Him at all, because Jesus Christ came to save His people from their sins.

Answer four questions:

1. Who came?
2. What was His purpose in coming?
3. Whom did He purpose to save?
4. What did He actually do?

1. Who came?

This was no ordinary birth:

- Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit, apart from normal relations with a man Matt.1:18, 20 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ... an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] in a dream saying Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”
- This is the doctrine of the virgin birth of our Lord.
- Matthew, one of the twelve, had direct access both to Jesus and Mary.

- Luke, who probably interviewed Mary, states that he carefully researched his gospel Luke 1:3.
- Both men affirmed the miraculous virgin birth of Jesus.
- To reject this as actual history is to reject the testimony of two independent historians who lived at that time and whose writings have been accepted as factual history by thousands of scholars.
- The only reason for rejecting such miraculous events is an arbitrary bias against all miracles, which is a bias against God Himself, who is able to interrupt the laws of His creation according to His purpose. Thus it is reasonable to accept the virgin birth as historically true.

2. Why is it important doctrinally to affirm Jesus' virgin birth?

1. The virgin birth is essential to affirm the deity of Jesus Christ.

- If He was born of a human father and mother through natural biological processes, then He is not God in human flesh.
- He might be a man upon whom God's Spirit rested in an unusual sense, but he still would only have been a man.
- His existence would have begun at conception, and He could not have been the Eternal God in human flesh.
- Yet Jesus claimed many times that He was sent into this world from heaven, assuming prior existence. He told the Jews, "Before Abraham was born, I am" John 8:58.

2. Belief in the virgin birth is essential to affirm the sinless humanity of Jesus Christ.

- If He was born of natural parents, then He was born a sinner like all human beings since the fall, and He would have needed a Savior for Himself.
- If He had sin of His own, He could not have died as the substitute for others.
- Through the superintendence of the Holy Spirit in the virgin birth, Jesus was born as fully human and yet sinless.
- The angel told Mary that because the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the most High would overshadow her, "for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God" Luke 1:35)
- Even though Mary herself was not immaculately conceived (she needed a Savior, Luke 1:47), Jesus was kept from her sin and born as fully human, yet without sin.

The angel, Matthew, 1:23 cites Isaiah 7:14 as being ultimately fulfilled when this woman, Mary, who had not had relations with a man, bore a Son by the Holy Spirit, and this Son is none other than "God with us - Emmanuel."

- As a sinless man, Jesus could represent the human race as sin-bearer. As God the Son, His sacrifice was acceptable before God the Father.
- The angel tells Joseph that he is to name this miraculous child Jesus, adding, “For it is He who will save His people from their sins” Matt. 1:21.
- The Greek for Jesus is *Iesous*, from the Hebrew *Jeshua*, the contracted form of *Jehoshua*, which means *Yahweh is salvation*.
- “In the shorter form *Jeshua* the stress is on the *verb*; hence, *he will certainly save*”
- Since for the Jews a person’s name had significance, the name **Jesus** points us to the very essence of His being, namely, that He is the Savior.
- The title “Christ” means that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, or Anointed One.

By giving Jesus that name, the Father commissioned Him to save sinners, and this constitutes the ground of our appeal to God for salvation.

“Who came?” - Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, is none other than the Eternal God in human flesh, and that He came to earth primarily as the Savior.

3. What was His purpose in coming?

He came “to save His people from their sins.”

- Understand that phrase, you must understand the meaning of the word “save.”
- It is a radical word. You do not save someone who just needs a little help.
- You save someone who is unable to do anything to save himself.
- A person who is lost at sea needs saving.
- A person who has stopped breathing needs saving.

Prior to Jesus’ saving them, His people were helplessly, hopelessly lost in their sins.

- They were alienated from God, under His righteous judgment, and unable to free themselves from this condition.
- A Savior is one who has the power to rescue people who could not rescue themselves. Jesus has the God-given power to save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21 is a fulfillment of the promise of Psalm 130:3-4, 8.

“If You Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. With Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.”

- The psalmist is overwhelmed by his sins. He is in the depths, about to go under, when he cries out in desperation to God. He recognizes that if God were to mark iniquities, no one could stand in His holy presence, but then adds, “But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared” (130:4). Based on the hope of God’s promises, he encourages Israel

also to hope in the Lord, adding, “For with the Lord there is lovingkindness, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities” (130:7-8).

- Jesus is the promised Savior, who actually provided redemption for people from all their sins.
- The Bible repeatedly affirms, that “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” (Rev. 7:10).

Jesus the Christ, who is God in human flesh, came for the purpose of saving His people from their sins.

4. **Whom did He purpose to save?**

He came to “save *His people* from *their sins*” (Matt. 1:21, emphasis added).

As Jesus says (Luke 19:10), “The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Those alienated from God, because of their sins.
- Jesus says Luke 5:31-32, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
- If you think that you are a basically good person and that you will get into heaven through your own goodness, then you are not one of Jesus’ people. He came to save sinners and sinners only.

Thus we’ve seen that Jesus Christ, who is eternal God, took on human flesh to save people from their sins.

5. **What did He do?**

“He actually saved His people from their sins.”

- Jesus’ death on the cross was substitutionary and specific.
- He died in the place of those He came to save.
- He *actually* purchased people from the slave market of sin by offering His own blood (Rev. 5:9), so that they do not have to pay for their own sins.
- All whom the Father has given to the Son *will come* to Him, and of those, Jesus will lose none (John 6:37, 39). Jesus gives eternal life as His gift to all whom the Father has given Him (John 17:2).

When it says that He will save from sin, the meaning is twofold:

1. He saves or delivers them from the penalty of sins, which is eternal punishment in hell. That happens instantaneously at the moment a sinner is awakened to believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
2. He saves them from the power of sin in our daily lives. That happens gradually and progressively as the believer learns to walk in dependence on the Holy Spirit. It will not be perfected until the moment when we see Jesus (1 John 3:2-3). If a person is not growing in holiness and striving against sin, he needs to question whether he has been saved from his sins at all.

Jesus “will save His people from their sins.”

Today, I hope you are able to rejoice with all of Creation as it did when He came as a babe in the stable

The question to you is, “*Are you one of His people?*”

Has God opened your eyes to see that you are a sinner who deserves His judgment?

- If you think that you’re a pretty good person in God’s sight, then you are not one of His people.
- But if you say, “Yes, I know that I am a sinner, deserving of God’s judgment,” then the next question is:
 - “Have you fled for refuge from God’s judgment to the cross of Jesus Christ?”
 - “Are you trusting in His shed blood alone to pay the penalty for your sins?”
 - “Is there any evidence that Christ has saved you from your sins?”
 - “*Has God changed your heart?*”

If you now love Jesus Christ you should be flooded with gratitude because you know that He gave Himself on the cross for you.

Before you had no interest in living for Christ and were content to live in disregard of God’s commands.

Now, although you aren’t perfect, you mourn over your sins (Matt. 5:4), you confess them and seek to please God by forsaking sin and by obeying God (1 John 1:8-9; 2:3-6; Titus 2:14).

Now your aim is to know Christ more and more (Phil. 3:9).