

## **JOHN'S CHRISTMAS STORY**

### **John 1:1-14**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. The theme for every church at Christmas should be...“Jesus is the reason for the season.”
- b. If there is any place on earth that should be reserved for the true meaning of Christmas... it is the church.
- c. What is the true meaning of Christmas?... Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ into this world.
- d. The birth of every child is special and should be celebrated... but what makes the birth of Jesus so special... that we celebrate it like we do each year?
- e. The birth of Jesus is special... because Jesus is special.
- f. This morning I want us to look at the Story of Christmas... the Miracle of Christmas...the Why of Christmas... the Decision of Christmas.

#### **II. THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS-**

- a. When the story of your life is written... it will begin with when and where you were born.
- b. We did not exist before we were born... our existence as human beings began with our conception in our mother's womb.
- c. But Jesus is different... Jesus existed before He was supernaturally conceived in the womb of His mother Mary.
- d. Human beings are infinite beings... that means that we have a beginning ... but we have no end.

- e. Physical death does not end the existence of human beings... even after our bodies die... our spirit... our soul... the spiritual, nonphysical part of us... will continue to exist... in one of two places in eternity.
- f. Human beings are infinite beings ... with one exception ... and that one exception is Jesus Christ.
- g. Jesus Christ is the only human being ever born...who is eternal.
- h. That means that Jesus existed before He was conceived in His mother's womb... Jesus has always been and He will always be.
- i. At Christmas... we usually focus on the Christmas story from two of the gospels... the gospels of Luke and Matthew.
- j. Luke tells us the Christmas story... from the perspective of Mary the mother of Jesus.
- k. Luke is the one who tells us about the announcement of the angel Gabriel to Mary... he tells us about the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem... the appearance of angels to the shepherds... and the visit of the shepherds to Jesus on the night He was born.
- l. Matthew tells us the Christmas story from the perspective of Joseph... the earthly father of Jesus.
- m. Matthew tells us how an angel revealed to Joseph the true nature of Mary's pregnancy... and how after that revelation ... Joseph took Mary to be his wife.
- n. It is Matthew who tells us about the visit of the Wise Men... and the flight to Egypt of the holy family.
- o. The gospel of Mark begins the story of Jesus... with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

- p. What about the gospel of John?... John has a Christmas story too ... but his Christmas story is different from the other gospels... John's Christmas story is found in the first verses of his gospel.
- q. John's Christmas story... does not begin with the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.
- r. John's story of Jesus... begins long before Jesus was born in Bethlehem ... in eternity past.

Story of Christmas

### III. THE MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS-

- a. The miracle of Christmas... is not that a baby was born in Bethlehem on that special night.
- b. The miracle of Christmas is that the baby who was born to Mary in that stable... was God in human flesh.
- c. John's Christmas story... focuses on Jesus before Bethlehem ... on the preexistence and the deity of Jesus.
- d. #1, In the first verse of His gospel... John declares the eternal nature of Jesus...John says that Jesus was present...when creation was created.
- e. If Jesus is eternal... then He must be God... because only God is eternal.
- f. *Psalm 90:2 (CSBBible) "Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God."*
- g. *Isaiah 40:28 (NKJV) "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable."*
- h. #2, John says that Jesus was present when creation was created ... because He was the One doing the creating.

- i. *John 1:3 (NKJV) “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*
- j. Jesus was not present in the beginning because He was a created being ... He was there in the beginning... because He was the One doing the creating.
- k. The One who was born in Bethlehem on that night of nights... was the Creator of all that there is... born into this world as a little baby.
- l. *Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*
- m. *Hebrews 1:1-2 (CSBBible) “Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him.”*
- n. Only God can create *ex nihilo*... create something out of nothing... if Jesus is the Creator... then He must be God.
- o. #3, John declares that Jesus is God...that He is fully equal to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in essence and attributes.
- p. *John 1:1 (NKJV) “The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
- q. The preposition “with”... and the conjunction “was”... both declare that Jesus was and is just as much God as the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- r. #4, John declares that Jesus is the source and the sustainer of all life...  
*John 1:4 (NKJV) “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*
- s. Jesus is the source and sustainer of all physical life... spiritual life... and eternal life.

- t. #5, John declares that not only is Jesus the source of life... He is also the source of “light”... Jesus is the source of all truth... He is the source of hope... and He is the light that shows the way to God... because He is the only way to God.
- u. After declaring the preexistence and deity of Jesus ... John then declares the astounding truth of Christmas... he declares what Christmas is really all about.
- v. *John 1:14 (NKJV) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*
- w. Through the miracle of the incarnation and virgin birth...the eternal Creator of the universe... the Son of God... the only begotten of the Father ... the Second Person of the Trinity... the Lord Jesus Christ ...“became” flesh... He became a human being and dwelt among us.
- x. It is important to understand that when Jesus came into this world as a human being...He did not cease to be God.
- y. The incarnation of Jesus was not a subtraction... it was an addition ... Jesus Who was and is fully God... became a man.
- z. When Jesus came into this world... He was not half God and half man... He was fully God and fully man.

The Story of Christmas... The Miracle of Christmas

#### **IV. THE WHY OF CHRISTMAS-**

- a. Why would Jesus leave the glories of Heaven... why would He leave the worship of angels ...the perfect fellowship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit that He had enjoyed for eternity...to come into this world as a human being... in the way that He did?
- b. When Jesus came into this world... He was not recognized and received for who He was... His identity was hidden by the veil of His humanity.

- c. When Jesus came into this world... He was not born into the family of a King... His earthly parents were not rich, powerful or famous.
- d. The earthly parents of Jesus were good people... godly people... but they were poor and unknown to the world.
- e. When Jesus was born... He was not born in a place that was safe, secure and sanitary... Jesus was born in a barn.
- f. When Jesus was born... He was not attended to by the best doctors and nurses of the land... the baby Jesus was cared for by His precious teenage mother... and the rough but tender hands of His carpenter earthly father ... and His birth was witnessed by barn animals.
- g. Except for a few who were told by God... the birth of Jesus... the Creator of the world... went unnoticed by the world.
- h. For 30 years, Jesus lived in obscurity in the land of Israel... then at the age of 30... Jesus began His public ministry which lasted for three and one-half years.
- i. During that time... Jesus preached... He taught... He loved... He served... He performed miracles... He preached the good news of God's love... He presented Himself as the Messiah of Israel... and the Savior of the world.
- j. During His ministry... some believed in Jesus... others did not ... and then Jesus was turned on... falsely accused... arrested... abused... and cruelly crucified on a cross.
- k. Why would Jesus come into the world... in the way that He did... to be treated like that?
- l. Jesus came into the world not just to show us God... not just to be an example for us... not to establish a religion.
- m. Jesus came into the world to make salvation possible... for all who would believe in Him and receive Him as their Savior and Lord.

- n. And, Jesus did that by going to a cross...and there in a way we can never understand... Jesus took our sins upon Himself ... He took the judgment and punishment we deserve because of our sins upon Himself ... and He made our salvation possible by dying for our sins on the cross.
- o. *Romans 5:8 (NKJV) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- p. *1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us..."*
- q. *2 Corinthians 5:15 (NKJV) "And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."*
- r. Jesus came into this world on a rescue mission... He came to save us from our sins and He made that salvation possible by His perfect life ... His sacrificial death... and His victorious resurrection.

The Story of Christmas... The Miracle of Christmas... The Why of Christmas

## **V. THE DECISION OF CHRISTMAS-**

- a. The most important decision in life is... "What will I do with Jesus Christ?"
- b. This is not a decision that can be ignored... this is not a decision that can be avoided ... this is not a decision that can be dismissed as unnecessary.
- c. At times we will receive an invitation to an event which has a RSVP attached...that means that the person who sent us the invitation wants us to respond...to tell them if we will be attending the event or not.
- d. A person can respond to a RSVP in one of three ways... they can accept the invitation... they can reject the invitation... or they can ignore the invitation.

- e. Rejecting an invitation... and failing to respond to an invitation... amount to the same thing ... rejection.
- f. A decision concerning Jesus Christ cannot be avoided... every person will respond to God's invitation to be saved through the Lord Jesus Christ in one of three ways.
- g. They will accept Jesus... they will reject Jesus... or they will ignore Jesus... rejecting Jesus and ignoring Jesus... amount to the same thing ... rejection.
- h. John said that when Jesus came into the world... many in the world... and many in Israel rejected Him... *John 1:10-11* "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."
- i. The consequences of rejecting Jesus... of refusing to accept Jesus are devastating... a lost life in this world... and a lost eternity in hell.
- j. But those who believe in Jesus and receive Him as their Savior and Lord... are born again... they are made the children of God... and they are saved from the devastating penalty of their sin... both in this life and in eternity.
- k. *John 1:12-13 (NKJV)* "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
- l. What you do with Jesus Christ... is the most important decision of your life... your decision will affect the quality and the course of your life in this world... and your eternal destiny forever.
- m. To leave this life having rejected Jesus is to fall forever... but those who repent of their sins and receive Him as their Lord and Savior... will be saved... and they will be raised up as the children of God... in this life and in eternity to come.

- n. The choice is yours... the decision is yours... what will you do with Jesus?

## **VI. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Believing in Jesus... means more than just intellectually believing the facts about Jesus.
- b. It is possible for a person to intellectually believe all of the right facts about Jesus ...and still be lost in their sin and separated from God.
- c. To believe in Jesus means to surrender one's life... to His control.
- d. *Timothy 1:12 (NKJV) "For I know whom I have believed in and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."*
- e. To believe in Jesus... is to commit and surrender your life to His control and Lordship... have you done that?