



WHY CHRIST CAME

**Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; 2:1-7;
Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 1:1-3; 9:26-28**

Golden Text:

“When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Gal. 4:4-5).



Study Outline:

- I. PRECISION OF CHRIST'S COMING** (Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:1-3; Luke 2:1-7)
- II. PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING** (Gal. 4:5; Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; Gen. 3:15)
- III. PROVISION OF CHRIST'S COMING** (Gal. 4:6-7; Heb. 9:26-28)

INTRODUCTION--Luke 2:1-7

1 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

NKJV

A. "NO ROOM IN THE INN."

1. SMALL TOWN BETHLEHEM

a. Ordinary Inn

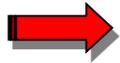
And it was doubtless a very ordinary inn at that. Bethlehem was not a large city. Its inns at best would be quite commonplace—but even these were not available.

b. This is no reflection on the innkeeper.

With his place filled (no advance notice from Joseph and Mary), he could hardly be blamed for offering only his second best.

c. God's Will

Rather, it is a penetrating comment on the divine plan for our redemption. God willed that His Son be born in a stable.



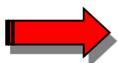
2. WHAT THE WORLD WOULD HAVE DONE?

- a. The world would have arranged for Jesus to be born in a royal palace, suitable surroundings for the King of kings.
- b. Human planners would have placed God's only-begotten Son in the lap of luxury. Surely nothing could be quite good enough for Him.



3. MISSES THE POINT

- a. But such an arrangement would have missed the point entirely.
- b. It would have been an attempt to use pomp and circumstance to save a fallen race.
- c. In that case, an angel would have done better than a baby.



4. THE INCARNATION MEANS INFINITE CONDESCENSION.

- a. Not pomp but poverty is required; not heraldry but humiliation.
- b. Jesus, "being in the form of God . . . took upon him the form of a servant" (Phil. 2:6-7) that He might bring "many sons unto glory" (Heb. 2:10).
- c. His birth made that stable glorious.

I. PRECISION OF CHRIST'S COMING

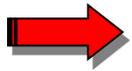
(Gal. 4:4; Heb. 1:1-3; Luke 2:1-7)

A. THE FULLNESS OF TIME (Gal. 4:4)

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, NKJV

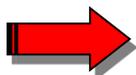
1. **LIKE A CAPSTONE TO ALL THE PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S COMING, PAUL SAID IN GALATIANS 4:4,**
"But when the time had fully

come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law" (NIV).



2. THE WORLD WAS PREPARED

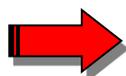
- a. In his view of the fullness of time, Paul sees that all things were right and proper for His coming.**
- b. The world had sunk to a desperate level of sin and godlessness, and yet it had been prepared for Him in various forms of readiness.**



c. 3 EXAMPLES OF PREPARATION

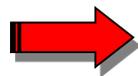
1.) FIRST PREPARATION

The dispersion of the Jews had established synagogues in all parts of the known world;



2.) SECOND PREPARATION

The conquering energies of Alexander the Great had made the Greek language an international form of communication;

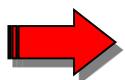


3.) THIRD PREPARATION

The military genius of the Romans had made worldwide travel possible by means of its sea traffic and network of roads.

d. JESUS CAME AT A PROPITIOUS TIME.

God's precision in prophecy and preparation brought the world to the point that it was prepared for the Messiah.



B. IN THESE LAST DAYS (Heb. 1:1-3)

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the

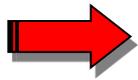
prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, NKJV



1. JESUS: GOD SPOKE THROUGH JESUS

It begins by affirming that the same God who spoke through Israel's prophets has now spoken through Israel's Messiah, His Son Jesus.

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*,

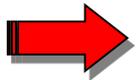


2. JESUS: APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS

The word **appointed** has the sense of “**put in place**” as an heir.

Thus, **Jesus has taken His rightful place as heir to all creation.**

...whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds



3. JESUS: THE BRIGHTNESS OF GOD'S GLORY

a. GLORY OF THE FATHER

- 1.) This means that He shines forth with the glory of the Father--**who being the brightness of His [Father's] glory and the express image of His [Father's] person.**
- 2.) **Revelation 1:16** describes

Christ's countenance as the
noonday sun,

**and His countenance was like the
sun shining in its strength.** NKJV

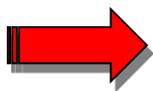
b. NO OTHER LIGHT NEEDED

Revelation 22:5 reveals that Christ, as the Lamb of God, is so bright in the heavenly city that there is no need of candle or sun.

⁵ There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. NKJV

c. HOLY LIGHT

Thus, the reference to His brightness is a description of the **purifying, revealing, and cleansing power** of holy light that is the Father and is manifested in the Son.



4. JESUS: JUST LIKE HIS FATHER

1.) Hebrews 1:3 tells that Jesus is

“the express image of his [God’s] person.”

2.) EXPRESS IMAGE = CHARACTER

a.) **"CHARACTER" --**

The Greek word used for “express image” is *charakter*, from whence our English word for *characteristic* is derived.

b.) **STAMPED IMPRESSION**

It denotes an engraving and a stamped impression by which the seal makes the identical impression on the item it presses against.

c.) Vine quotes Liddon on this passage:

“The phrase expresses the fact that the Son `is both personally distinct from, and yet literally equal to, Him of whose essence He is the

adequate imprint.”

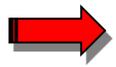
“The Son of God is not merely His image, He is the image, or impress, of His substance, or essence.”

5. JESUS: PURGED OUR SINS

3 . . . and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- a. Our eternal redemption had to be purchased by God and not by animals or man.
- b. Only as God made provision of Himself and gave His own holy blood as He became flesh could our redemption be secured.
- c. If Jesus is not the eternal, only begotten Son of God, then we are not saved and His death was only that of

a martyr.



C. IN THOSE DAYS (Luke 2:1-7)

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

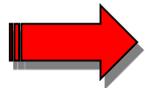
⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a

manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. NKJV



1. Censuses were carried out in the Roman world for two reasons:

- a. **FIRST:** to assess taxes
- b. **SECOND:** to discover who was eligible for military service.



2. THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR TO BE.

- a. **GOD, NOT CAESAR, WAS IN CONTROL**
- b. **CAESAR AN ACTOR IN GOD'S DRAMA**

Actors on the stage of the world don't always know how to evaluate their role. Caesar Augustus, the first Roman emperor, issues a decree and it is obeyed and he is in control.

c. JOSEPH & MARY ACTORS IN GOD'S DRAMA

Joseph and Mary, peasants from Nazareth, answer his decree and make their way to Bethlehem.

How insignificant they seem amid the many who are returning to their hometown. Yet this woman, marching under the orders of Caesar Augustus, is carrying in her womb the Son of God.

d. JESUS WAS BORN IN A STABLE.

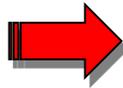
It is probable that the stable was built out of a cave. Travelers put up in such places, that is, in the open areas, while the back parts were used as stables.

- 1.) When the Child was born, **Mary wrapped Him in "swaddling clothes"** (v. 7), which consisted of a square of cloth with a long

bandagelike strip coming diagonally off from one corner. The infant was first wrapped in the square of cloth and then the long strip was wound round and round Him. Jesus was then laid in a *manger*, meaning "a place where animals feed."

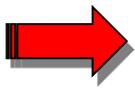
- 2.) The fact that there was **no room for Jesus in the inn anticipated the reception He would receive from humanity.**
- 3.) John recorded, [John 1:11-12] "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"
- 4.) Some did come to Him reverently. God sent visitors of His own to pay homage to the newborn King. And in every generation, some have

come and bowed before Him.



II. PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING

(Gal. 4:5; Isa. 9:6-7;
Luke 1:32-33; Gen. 3:15)



A. FIRST PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING: REDEEM LOST PEOPLE (Galatians 4:5)

⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

1. ILLUSTRATION: Donald Deffner tells this story:

A television interviewer was walking streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know."

Is that the day that Jesus died? There was some truth in her answer.¹

2. THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING-- WAS THE REDEMPTION OF HUMANITY

a. UNABLE TO MEASURE UP:

Past ages clearly demonstrated that men and women were unable to measure up to God's moral standard of righteousness, much less achieve a righteousness of their own.

b. LAW = WE LIVED UNDER A CURSE & JUDGMENT:

Living under law, we lived under a curse—under the law's judgment.

c. GRACE = WE LIVE AS SONS/DAUGHTERS

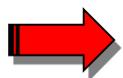
1.) GIFT --

¹ Donald Deffner, [Seasonal Illustrations](#), San Jose: Resource, 1992, p. 16.

But under grace, we receive from a gracious God the gift of sonship.

2.) HERE, TRULY, IS ONE OF THE MARVELS OF REDEEMING GRACE:

God actually adopts into His household those who formerly belonged to the family of the devil (see John 8:44), and He gives to them as a free gift the right to all the privileges and blessings of sons (1:12).



B. SECOND PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING: ESTABLISH HIS GOVERNMENT (Is. 9:6-7)

**6 For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His
shoulder.
And His name will be called**

**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of *His* government and
peace *There will be* no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His
kingdom, To order it and establish it with
judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform
this. NKJV**

1. THIS FIRST PROCLAMATION

- a.** The first proclamation of Christ's kingdom comes through the ministry of Isaiah during the latter half of the eighth century BC (Isaiah's ministry was from 740 to 700 BC).
- b. The setting is one of misery and despair.** Because of the people's disobedience, in the present they can see only destruction and havoc

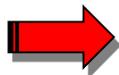
wreaked by an invading army.

- c. **However, the future provides a contrast** when a remnant of this nation experiences both spiritual and material blessings.

2. THE FOCUS OF THIS KINGDOM OF PEACE IS THE KING.

- a. **IT ALL HINGES ON HIS AUTHORITY AND POWER.**
- b. **THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF THIS CHILD** is seen in chapter 7 through His virgin birth (v. 14).

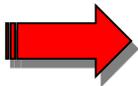
Isaiah 7:14--Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. NKJV



PLAY VIDEO EMMANUEL!

c. HIS DISTINCTIVENESS & DOMINION:

- 1.) Now the prophet proclaims Christ's authority over the coming kingdom.
- 2.) **The special names given to this Ruler demonstrate His distinctiveness and dominion that is different from other human rulers.**



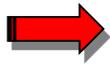
3. FOUR ELEMENTS TO HIS NAME

In Isaiah 9:6 there are four elements to the compound name. ... The elements of His name indicate this to be God Himself through a member of the Trinity coming to earth to establish a continuous kingdom.

... and His name will be called

**Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.** NKJV



a. WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,

This element is better interpreted as a single term and embodies the wisdom of future authority.



b. MIGHTY GOD

This is the absolute declaration of His being deity, God himself through Christ coming to bring light into the darkness.



c. EVERLASTING FATHER

The term **father** provides the concept of love and protection.

This future kingdom won't fade or dissolve because of the lack of authority or power. It will continue forever.

Instead of temporary kingdoms, which

may be fortunate to survive several centuries, this one will be without end.



d. PRINCE OF PEACE

The desire for the future is peace rather than war.

It is important to understand that the point in time for complete peace isn't stated.

We know He brings spiritual peace, but world peace would be in the distant future.

4. KINGDOM WILL NOT CEASE

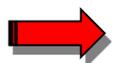
7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be no end,* Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.



THREE TRUTHS ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM IN VERSE 7:



a. **FIRST KINGDOM TRUTH:** this kingdom, unlike those of the world, will not cease.



b. **SECOND KINGDOM TRUTH:** Also, it will be an **extension of David's throne** and kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12, 13, 16).

. . . And I will establish his kingdom.
¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. . . . ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever."
NKJV



c. **THIRD KINGDOM TRUTH:** Finally, this kingdom **upholds justice and righteousness**, rather than personal pride and earthly greed.

 **C. THIRD PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING: REIGN FOREVER**
(Luke 1:32-33)

³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." NKJV

IN THESE TWO VERSES TWO THINGS HIGHLIGHTED BY GABRIEL

Having announced Mary's imminent conception and the subsequent birth of Jesus, Gabriel proceeds to define the greatness of His character and the majesty of His destiny.

 **1. FIRST-- GREATNESS OF HIS CHARACTER.**

- a. **As to His character**, He would be acknowledged as "**the Son of the Highest**" (*NIV*).

b. **As a divine name, “the Son of the Highest”** belongs to the early patriarchal worship of one supreme Deity.

c. **JESUS' DEITY:**

So the angel declares that Mary's son is to be the unique Son of the one living and true God. It refers to Jesus' deity.

2. **SECOND--MAJESTY OF HIS DESTINY**

a. **PROPHECY OF KINGSHIP:**

But His royalty is also clearly announced in that He is destined to inherit the dynasty of His father David, and to rule over Israel.

This was a prophecy of a kingship and a perpetual kingdom which has not yet been literally fulfilled.

b. LITERAL FULFILLMENT

The fact that the angelic announcement of the Savior's conception and birth was literally fulfilled in Nazareth and Bethlehem certifies a literal fulfillment of the related kingdom prophecy.

D. **FOURTH PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S COMING: CRUSH SATAN** (Gen. 3:15)

And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel." NKJV

1. EARLIEST PROPHECY

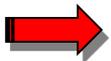
- a. **The earliest prophecy concerning the coming of Christ** was in the Garden of Eden when God spoke to the Serpent following the fall of Adam and Eve.

- b. **The seed of the woman would be Jesus**, who would inflict a mortal wound upon Satan.



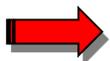
2. IT WAS THE PLAN OF GOD . . .

that the Redeemer should be the seed of a woman, that is, becoming a man.



3. HIS LIFE ON EARTH

WOULD BE FOR the purpose of bruising the devil, defeating him and establishing the foundation whereby people might be restored to their rightful place with God.



4. HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS

In the process of His bruising the head of the Serpent, His heel would also be bruised. This is a reference to the Passion and Crucifixion.

III. PROVISIONS OF CHRIST'S COMING (Gal. 4:6-7; Heb. 9:26-28)

A. FIRST PROVISION: A NEW RELATIONSHIP (Gal. 4:6-7)

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" ⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. NKJV

1. AS PROOF OF OUR NEW STATUS AS CHILDREN OF GOD,

- a. **"God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts"** (v. 6, *NIV*).
- b. **"The Spirit of his Son"** suggests the intimate relation of the Spirit and the Son,
- c. **just as the "Spirit of God"** suggests His intimate relation to the Father. The Trinity is forever one

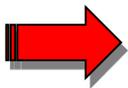
and inseparable in essence, yet triune in its personal manifestations.



2. SPIRIT BEAR WITNESS

- a. **The Spirit has come in answer to the intercession of Christ the Son** (John 14:16);
- b. **He bears witness to the work of Christ** in the heart of the newborn believer (15:26; 16:14; Rom. 8:14-16).
- c. **CRYING OUT**
 - 1.) This witness is also represented here in Galatians 4:6 by the word ***crying out***, a verb that expresses deep, heart-moving emotion.
 - 2.) “**Abba, Father**” is an Aramaic form of address which was carried over into early Christian prayer. This cry may be inarticulate, like the “groans that words cannot express” mentioned in Romans

8:26 (*NIV*), for it is the Spirit who cries within our hearts to give assurance of our adoptive position.



3. SONS NOT SLAVES

- a. **As grace delivers us from the power of darkness and translates us “into the kingdom of his dear Son”** (Col. 1:13), so grace lifts us out of the context and bondage of legalistic servitude (bondslaves) into the position of sons.
- b. **The logical consequence of this new status is that each believer becomes “an heir of God through Christ”** (Gal. 4:7).
- c. Inasmuch as **the entire redemptive purpose centers in Christ the Son, it must follow that the privileges and rights of sonship and heirship come to us through Christ** (Rom. 8:17).

**B. SECOND BENEFIT:****A NEW COVENANT** (Heb. 9:26-28)

6 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. **27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, **28** so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

NKJV

- 1. The old covenant between God and humanity was inferior.** The mediator was not involved in the sacrifice itself except to offer it. In this sense the priest was removed from the sacrifice.
- 2. The new covenant was established by a new mediator**

(Christ) and in a new manner (in the very presence of God, v. 24). Christ gave 100 percent to the sacrifice by making Himself the sacrifice. The purity of His sacrifice was in its content and in the commitment of the One giving it. Christ was completely committed to the redemption of the lost.

CONCLUSION

“Christmas—the Advent—is the first step of Calvary’s journey. The coming of Christ to man was a journey no one had ever taken before—or since. But all can travel the road from man to God.”—**C. Neil Strait**