

God's Purpose Is Eternal

Text : **Luke 1: 26-38, I Pet. 1: 17-21**

S#1.

A. The flow of our recent lessons has been about man's relationship with God.

1. Why we should love God and His church.
2. We considered sin and its consequences; what Hell is like.
3. We thrilled to know Heaven is our and that there are rewards in Heaven.

S#2.

B. Truly God has made a gift available so great that we cannot even conceive of it.

1. That gift is eternal life with God in Heaven.

Rom. 6: 22-23 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you **S#3.**
derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome,
eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of
God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. Heaven is so splendorous it can only be described in metaphorical terms.

- a. **Rev. 21: 19-20** ... Foundations encrusted with every kind of precious jewels.
- b. **Rev. 21: 21** ... Streets of Gold and gates of pearl.
- c. A city with no sickness, suffering, or death

C. We often value a gift based upon how much that gift cost the giver.

S#4.

1. Our redemption was purchased by the blood of Jesus who is the Christ.

Rev. 5: 9 – And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book **S#5.**
and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with
Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

2. The price paid for God's gift to us cost more than silver and gold.

I Pet. 1: 17-19 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges **S#6.**
according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the
time of your stay *on earth*; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed
with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life
inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a
lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

D. We often value a gift based upon the time put into planning and making it. **S#7.**

1. God planned His gift for us before He had even created us.

I Pet. 1: 20-21 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, **S#8.**
but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who
through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead
and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2. Thus, Jesus existed in Heaven before He came to this earth.

Phil. 2: 5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **S#9.**
6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

This is the season many more people are thinking about the arrival of **S#10.**
 God the Son on the earth. Theologically it is called “The Incarnation.”
 Denominations refer to it as “The Advent.” Most folks just call it Christmas.

I. The incarnation of Christ as a man. S#11.

A. The coming of the Christ was a well-planned event. S#12.

1. **Gal. 4: 4** – But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,
2. His coming had to fulfill hundreds of prophecies at least a dozen about His birth.

B. God chose a young virgin girl to be His mother. (*girls married very young*) S#13.

1. Vs. **27** ... The angel Gabriel was sent to a virgin.
2. Vs. **34** ... Mary objected that she was virgin so she could not bear a child.
3. It was necessary that a virgin conceive the child to insure it was not a natural child.

C. God chose a righteous man to be the stepfather of his child.

1. **Matt. 1: 19** – And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
2. “Righteous” indicated that he faithfully kept the Law of Moses.
 - a. e.g. **Luke 2: 21-24** Jesus was presented at the temple 40 days old (circumcised)
 e.g. **Luke 2: 41-51** Jesus was taken to the Temple on feast days.
 - b. This was essential for Jesus to grow up in compliance with the Law.
 - c. Joseph was responsible for the religious training and the education of Jesus.
Luke 2: 52 – And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

D. Joseph kept Mary a virgin until after the birth of Jesus. S#14.

1. **Matt. 1: 25** – but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son;
2. Necessary to affirm the miraculous nature of Jesus’ birth.
3. This statement confirms at least two things.
 - a. Joseph and Mary were not having premarital sex. (cf – 1: 19)

- b. Mary had not been impregnated by anyone else. (*Virginity was confirmed b4*)
- *4. This verse establishes a timeline for Mary's virginity.
 - a. She was only maintained as a virgin UNTIL she gave birth to Jesus.
 - b. She subsequently gave birth to other children. (*4 brothers and multiple sisters*)
 - c. The doctrine of "perpetual virginity" is totally false. (*Lk 2:7 – first born son*)

E. Jesus was "conceived" in Mary's womb, NOT implanted. S#15.
Vs. 31 .. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall..."

1. THEREFORE ... the Spirit of God miraculously fertilized a human egg.
2. The Spirit of God doing this did not require physical contact ... *she remained virgin.*
3. The manifestation of God on earth shared human genes. (*living relative possible*)
4. God could have chosen to appear on the earth at any stage of development, but chose to endure the entirety of the human experience.

S#16.

F. As the time for the birth of Jesus approached, Mary was required to travel.

1. Rome required all Jews to register as part of census ... establish tax & troop base.
2. Mary was required to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
 - a. Approximately 65 to 70 miles
 - b. Does not tell how she traveled. (*Doesn't say how .. walked or donkey*)
 - c. Most likely traveled in a family group. (cf- *Luke 2: 41-51 .. to Jerusalem*)

II. Events surrounding the birth of God's Son on the earth.

S#17.

A. Mary's time to deliver came "while" the couple was in Bethlehem.

S#18.

1. *Luke 2: 6 – While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.*
2. There is no indication of how long they stayed or when she delivered.
- * 3. *There is a host of unfounded tradition surrounding the birth of Jesus.*

- a. *I Pet. 2: 2 – like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,*
- b. We must keep the word "pure" .. not mixed with tradition .. if we are to grow.

S#19.

B. Luke 2: 7 .. There was no room for them to give birth in the "inn."

S#20.

1. The word for "inn" does not normally refer to a Motel 6.
 - a. Kataluma : 1 an inn, lodging place. 2 an eating room, dining room.
 - b. Used only two other places in parallel passages. (*Luke 22: 11, Mark 14:14*)

- c. **Luke 22: 11** – And you shall say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the quest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' (kataluma = *guest room*) **S#21.**
2. By custom Mary and Joseph would have stayed in the home of relatives.
- Sleeping quarters and accommodations for visitors were commonly on the 2nd floor
 - The first floor of a house was very utilitarian. (*work space, storage, etc.*)
 - Older members of the family would have been given the best sleeping places.
3. The fact that Mary laid Jesus in a manger does not necessarily imply a barn.
- Animals were commonly kept in the house at night to prevent theft.
 - Their body heat went up to upper room and their waste was burned as fuel.
 - A manger would have been common in ground floor of a house. **S#22.**
- C. An angel stood before shepherds in the field to announce the birth of Jesus.**
- Angel was "**before them**" not speaking out of the sky.
 - They were frightened when suddenly "**the glory of the Lord shone around them.**"
 - One angel spoke and others joined him to sing. (*Heavenly hosts, not hosts in heaven*) **S#23.**
- D. Magi from the East came to worship the sovereign King of Heaven and earth.**
- "**Magi**" is a plural word, but no number is given. *It could have been 2 or 20 or ??*
 - We get the number 3 from the types of gifts.
 - Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were the types of gifts, NOT a number of gifts.
 - These were the proper gifts to be given to and by a king. (*expensive and rare*)

III. What is the significance of the incarnation of Jesus?

S#24.

A. We've seen that the incarnation of Christ was a carefully planned event.

S#25.

- It was planned even before God created the world.
- It was completed thousands of years after creation on a specific timetable.
- All of the events conformed to prophecies made hundreds of years prior.

B. Why was it necessary for God to become a man in the flesh.

- Jesus was born as a man to be able to reveal God to mankind. **S#26.**

John 14: 9 – Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

2. Jesus proved to mankind that a man could keep the Law of Moses / God. S#27.
I Pet. 2: 21-22 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, **22** 'who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;'
3. Jesus was born to be a sacrifice for man's sins. S#28.
 - a. **Heb. 9: 22** – And according to the Law, *one may almost say*, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
 - b. **Eph. 5: 2** – and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
 - c. **Heb. 2: 14** – Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He S#29.
Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, S#30.
4. God had to fulfill his covenant with David regarding his descendant ruling over an eternal kingdom established by God. (The church) S#31.
 - a. **II Sam. 7: 13** – He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
 - b. **Isa. 9: 6-7** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And S#31.
the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.
5. Therefore, Jesus was born to save all people who will accept the gift He purchased.
 - a. **John 1: 11-13** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not S#32.
receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, **13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - b. **Heb. 5: 9** – And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, S#33.

IV. How does one go about receiving the gift that Jesus purchased for us ? S#34.

- A. We are all familiar with gifts that are given with certain conditions. S#35.
 1. The first fifty people in the store will receive a \$50 gift card to be used on any item over \$500 purchased in the store today.
 - a. Must be one of first 50 people in the store.
 - b. Must purchase an item in the store that cost more than \$500.

- c. The item must be purchased on that day.
- 2. God purchased salvation and makes it available to anyone meets His conditions.
- 3. Meeting the qualifications does not earn the gift, it qualifies one to be a recipient.

B. Salvation is God's free gift and is available to all qualified recipients. S#36.

1. As with any gift, salvation cannot be earned. It's given and received or rejected.
Eph. 2: 8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **S#37.**
2. To be a qualified recipient one must believe that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son who was born of woman so He could offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin and .. **#38.**
Mark 16: 16 – He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.
3. To be a qualified recipient of God's gift of salvation one must surrender his life.
 - a. Surrender is called repentance .. change of values resulting in a change of life. **#39.**
 - b. **Acts 2: 38** – Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. To be a qualified recipient of God's gift of salvation one must be willing to tell other people about his faith in Him.
Matt. 10: 32-33 Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in Heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in Heaven. **S#40.**
5. To be a qualified recipient of God's gift of salvation a person of faith must make a commitment to God by burying his old man of sin in baptized.
 - a. **Gal. 3: 26-27** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized INTO Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **#41.**
 - b. It is like the wedding ceremony, it solemnizes one relationship with Christ.
 - c. *The wedding is just the beginning of the marriage; baptism starts a new life.*

CONCLUSION :

- A. This holiday season reminds us of why the Son of God was born of woman. **S#42.**
- B. The birth of Jesus facilitated a fantastic gift for any who will receive it. **S#43.**

INVITATION : Have you received it ? Why not receive it now ? **S#44.**
S#45. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Luke 1: 26-38**

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you." **29** But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; 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 His kingdom will have no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. **36** And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

I Peter 1: 17-21

17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay *on earth*; **18** knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, **19** but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ. **20** For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.