

Why Was Jesus Born

Text : **John 17: 1-10 ; Phil 2: 5-11**

S#1.

A. Worldwide people who believe in Jesus are celebrating His birth this week.

S#2.

1. He was **not** born on December 25th, **but** it's as good a day as any to celebrate it.
 - a. The date of His birth was not recorded so no one knows when it was.
 - b. The December 25th date was selected to "synchronize" it with a pagan holiday.
 - c. Celebrating His birth is not commanded, **BUT** Christians are given the right to set aside and celebrate holidays.

Rom. 14: 5 – One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.
6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.

S#3.

2. Though celebrating the birth of Jesus is not commanded, **it is a good thing**.
 - a. It is a time of joy when Christian values are advocated.
 - b. It is a time when the reality of Jesus and His ministry are acknowledged.
3. Many hear about Jesus **ONLY** at this time of year.
 - a. Stories about Him are on radio and TV.
 - b. Church attendance is up during the Christmas season.

B. Summarize the Christmas story.

1. The Christmas story starts before God created the world.

I Pet. 1: 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,

S#4.

2. It is the theme of all the scriptures.
3. All of the prophets spoke of it.

Luke 24: 27 – Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

S#5.

4. It reached its crescendo on the cross.

Mark 10: 45 – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

5. **BUT** ... It soon picks back up in Heaven where Jesus is advocating for us.

I John 2: 1 – My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

S#6.

6. And finally occurs when Jesus returns to pick up His faithful and take them home.

I Thess. 4: 16 – For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

S#7.

- C. The Christmas story is an amazing story of love which we will see as we ask the question, “*Why was Jesus born?*”

S#8.

I. Jesus did not come into existence when He was conceived in the womb.

S#9.

- A. Jesus is God and was God in Heaven before the worlds were created.

1. **John 1: 1** – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.

S#10.

2. This God who is called the “Word” became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1: 14 – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- B. When Jesus left Heaven to be born of a woman, He left His glory.

S#11.

1. Jesus had glory in Heaven equal to that of God the Father.

John 17: 5 – Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

2. Jesus voluntarily laid aside His eternal glory to be born of a woman.

Phil 2: 5 – Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **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.

S#12.

- * 3. Whatever glory, pleasure or treasure you may forgo for now, Jesus will multiply it.

- C. Jesus never took His eye off the goal ... having you in Heaven with Him.

II. Jesus came to fulfill God's promises.

S#13.

- A. The promise to Satan :

S#14.

Gen. 3: 15 – And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.

- B. The promise to Abraham : In you all nations will be blessed

C. The promise to David :

S#15.

Acts 13: 22 – After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, ' I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.' **23** " From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus.

D. Jesus fulfilled between 200 and 400 prophecies by His coming.

S#16.

III. Jesus' incarnation was motivated by His love for man and His desire to save.

S#17.

A. God must be just, but He has never wanted people to be lost.

S#18.

II Pet. 3: 9 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

B. He loved us so much He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for us.

John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

S#19.

C. Jesus came "SEEKING" people to save.

1. **Luke 19:10** – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
2. God has never given up on man ... though we are frequently unfaithful. (*father*)
3. He wants back that which was taken from Him in the garden. (*Mankind*)

D. God sent Jesus into the world to save lost mankind, Jesus in turn sent us.

S#20.

1. Christians are God's family, His children ... **salvation is our family business.**
2. We must follow the example of our older brother. **Jesus :**
 - a. Left a comfortable life
 - b. Gave up riches, power, & position
 - c. He even gave up His life

IV. Jesus was born to die.

S#21.

A. It is important to clarify that Jesus had flesh. (*before & after resurrection*)

S#22.

1. **I John 4:2** – By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God;
 - a. John started his epistle discussing how they had physically touched Jesus.

I John 1:1 – What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

S#23.

- b. It was John who recorded Thomas touching the wounds of Jesus.

John 20: 28 – Then He said to Thomas, " Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

S#24.

- c. The scripture records that they gave Him a fish and He ate it. **WHY ?**

Luke 24: 41 – While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, " Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; 43 and He took it and ate it before them.

S#25.

S#26.

B. Why is it important to establish that the Son of God was born and raised in flesh?

1. The first great heresy among the Greek converts was Gnosticism.

- They believed they had special knowledge above others.
- They believed that the physical realm was evil. (including one's body)
- Most Gnostics believed that Jesus only "appeared" to have a physical body.

2. A spirit cannot die. (*One may be able to cease to exist ?*)

- What is death ? *thanatos* = "that separation" (Thayer's)
- Physical death is when the spirit leaves or separates from one's body. (**Jas. 2:26**)
- Spiritual death is when one is separated from God.

Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The death resulting from sin involves both physical and spiritual death.

3. God is a spirit.

- John 4: 24** – "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- Since a spirit has no body, it cannot separate from one, **thus**, it cannot die.

C. Therefore, it was necessary for God to become man in order to die.

S#27.

1. We have each received a death sentence so death is necessary to pay the penalty for sin.

- Rom. 6: 23** ... The penalty for sin is death.

- We are body, soul and spirit.

I Thes. 5: 23 – Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- In order for that death sentence to be carried out, our life force (spirit) must be separated.

James 2: 26 – For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

2. So God who is Spirit had to take on flesh in order to pay man's sin penalty.
 - 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. **S#28.**
 - 1) **Remember :** *Jesus was born, lived and died under the old covenant from which His sacrificial death freed us.*
 - 2) **Compare :** **Heb. 10: 5ff**
 - b. Only a sinless person could have been sacrificed. (*Inspected lambs for defects.*)
I Pet. 1: 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. **S#29.**
 - c. Only the blood of God is valuable enough to pay the penalty for all mankind.

D. Jesus voluntarily shed His blood and laid down His life to save us.

1. Jesus knew He was going to die for mankind.
John. 10: 17 – For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. **18** No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father." **S#30.**
2. Jesus realized that He had come to earth and become a man so He could die.
John 12: 27 – Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. **S#31.**

CONCLUSION :

- A. Why was Jesus born ?** **S#32.**
 1. The birth of Jesus did not mark His beginning.
 2. He came to fulfill promises and prophecies.
 3. He was born to save lost mankind.
 4. He was born to die.
- B. What should our response be ?** **S#33.**
 1. **Gal. 2: 20** – I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 2. **Rom. 6: 1** ... Start a new life separated from sin. **Matt. 6: 33**
 3. Start a journey which ends in Heaven.

Lesson Text :**John 17: 1-10**

1 Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, 2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. 3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 " I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 "Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; 8 for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me. 9 " I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; 10 and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

Phil 2: 5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 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. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.