

Week 36: The Birth of Christ - God With Us

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

The birth of Christ marks one of the key turning points in our history. What God promised through the prophets, He fulfilled in Jesus. It's also worth noting that the Messiah arrived with humility, laid in a manger. He was (and is) *Immanuel* (God with us).

This week should remind families that God keeps His promises. That our salvation did not come through politics or human endeavors, but through obedience, humility, and divine intervention. Christ entered the world not to be served, but to serve, and to redeem His people. So should we have the same spirit of servitude and humility in our daily lives.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26–38 - The Announcement to Mary

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 *He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

33 *And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

34 *Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*

35 *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

36 *And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.*

37 *For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

38 *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

Commentary

God chose humility, obedience, and faith as the means of bringing salvation into the world. Mary was not chosen because of her social status or worldly accomplishments, but for her submission and obedience. Her response “*be it unto me according to thy word*” models faithful obedience. Our Messiah was not produced by human intervention, but by divine power.

Matthew 1:18–25 - God With Us

18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

19 *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.*

20 *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.*

21 *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Commentary

God's plan was fulfilled through Joseph's obedience. Though faced with confusion and potential shame, he trusted God regardless of the perceived consequences. Matthew emphasizes the fulfillment of God's promise and this birth happened exactly as foretold. Jesus came not merely to inspire, but to *save His people from their sins* because God did not send a "message"; He sent His Son.

Luke 2:1–7 - The Humble Birth

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Commentary

Worldly rulers, as usual, thought they had the power to control spiritual events, but God directed every step in His timing. A forced census fulfilled the prophecy, while a stable became a sanctuary for the son of God. The King of Heaven entered the world in humility, reminding families that God's power is displayed through humility and obedience.

Luke 2:8–14 - Good News for All People

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Commentary

God announced the birth of Christ to shepherds, men familiar with watchfulness and humility, not to kings, political leaders or those in power. The gospel is for all people. Christ's coming brought glory to God and peace to those who receive Him, even heaven itself rejoiced at the arrival of the Redeemer on earth.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children

- Where was Jesus born?
- Who came to tell about His birth?
- Why is Jesus special?

Older Children & Teens

- Why did God choose a humble birth?
- What does “God with us” mean?
- How did Mary and Joseph show obedience?

Adults

- How does Christ’s humility shape our leadership and homes?
 - Why is obedience more important than understanding?
 - How should the reality of “God with us” affect daily life?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 98:1–4 (KJV)

1 O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

2 The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

3 He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

4 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Commentary

The birth of Christ is cause for praise. God revealed salvation not in secret, but openly because joy is the proper response to the fulfilled promise and divine mercy.

Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

By Charles Wesley (1739)

1.

Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

2.

Christ, by highest Heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”

3.

Hail the heav’nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

4.

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface,
Stamp Thine image in its place:
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in Thy love.

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"



Family Application Points

1. **Trust God's Timing** - God always fulfills promises exactly when and how He intends. If we are submissive, obedient and patient, we will see God's promises fulfilled in our lives.
2. **Value Obedience** - Mary and Joseph obeyed without understanding and without delay. Just imagine if they had questioned, delayed and doubted?
3. **Embrace Humility** - God works through our faithfulness and obedience, not our social or financial status. Our willingness to submit to and honor God's laws and set examples publically for others is our ministry.
4. **Rejoice in Salvation** - Christ came to save from sin, not improve our earthly lives.
5. **Live as God's Dwelling Place** - God with us means God is present in our hearts and homes. Next time you start gossiping about someone, listening to music, watching a show on television ect. Ask yourself would I be doing this if Jesus was sitting here with me? (Because he is)

A Sabbath Feast Prayer

Father, we thank You for sending Your Son into the world to save us from our sins. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach our family to walk in obedience, humility, and joy. Let the truth of 'God with us' shape our home, our words, and our ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we praise You for fulfilling every promise through the birth of Christ. Thank You for coming near, for dwelling among us, and for bringing salvation to Your people. Teach our family to live in the light of Your presence, to obey Your Word faithfully, and to rejoice in the gift of redemption. May our home honor You as the incarnate King, now and always. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.