

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church  
Bible Study  
Monday, December 10, 2007

The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. (Isaiah 7:10-14, 9:1-6, 53:1-6, Daniel 2:31-45.....) Between the times of the prophets is what is called “the 400 silent years.” At the end of that period the eternal plan of God continues to unfold with the birth of Jesus, the Christ, (Messiah) the “anointed one” or the “promised one of God.” The details of the birth of Christ are presented in the synoptic gospels of Matthew and Luke. John’s gospel does not give us any of the details of the birth of Christ, to this gospel writer none of that is important. John simply lets us know that the “Word” was “made flesh and dwelt among us.” Taken together the synoptic gospels and John’s gospel present to us the “story of God’s romance with the rejected.”

Our loving God is omniscient and in His infinite wisdom He prepared and executed a divine plan for the advent (coming) of His Son. His Son, “the Word” (logos) “was in the beginning with God and without Him was not anything made that was made.” (John 1:1-3) He like His Father, (God) is invisible, spirit and eternal. In order to come to earth to redeem man and reconcile God and man, “the Word” (Son) had to become flesh (human). For this to happen the “Word” would have to be conceived and born in the womb of a woman, yet be born without sin. God found favor in a virgin named Mary who was engaged to a man named Joseph (Luke 1:26-30) This was important because not only was the Son of God to be born but He was also to be a descendent of King David. (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 89:3.....) Joseph was a descendent of King David. (Matthew 1:1-16) He was to be Jesus legal but not biological father, because Jesus was to be conceived by the Holy Ghost. Thus Jesus is born without sin. He is the only person ever born who was born without sin, not “born in sin or shaped in iniquity.” Therefore He is worthy to pay the debt required for the remission of sin. Jesus becomes the lamb promised in Genesis 22:8, “the Lord (Jehovah-Jireh) will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” John the Baptist (the forerunner of Christ Luke 1:17) speaks of Him in John 1:29 when he declares, “behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.”

It was absolutely necessary that Jesus be born like us. He was conceived in the womb of a woman, born of the flesh, born under the law. Born as a baby, like everyone else who was born into the world, there were signs that accompanied His birth to announce His arrival. Those signs were:

Star – Matthew 2:1 (Wise Men) – Persia – every great man had a star - Herod  
Angels – Luke 2:9-14 (Shepherds) – Jesus to become the Good Shepherd  
Bethlehem – Micah 5:2

He was born like us for several reasons:

1. To be an example for us, to show us how to live a righteous life
2. To prove that God will give us His best
3. To become sin, atone for man

What we get from Christ

1. God's love – John 1:14, 3:16
2. God's grace – John 1:14
3. God as Father
4. Forgiveness of sins
5. Salvation – Savior
6. Lord
7. Joy
8. Peace
9. Holy Spirit – Emanuel (Immanuel)
10. Right to tree of life- eternal life