

Beyond the Birth of Jesus

(Luke 2:1-7)

When a preacher starts talking about the birth of Jesus around this time of the year, many brethren start to feel uncomfortable. And yet, the birth of the Lord is certainly a biblical subject.

What does the Bible tell us about the birth of the most important person in the human history?

I. The Birth of Jesus

A. It was **extra ordinary and special**.

1. Because it was **foretold** (Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 53:1-12; Micah 5:2; Daniel 2:44).
2. Because it was **miraculous** (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).
3. Because it was **announced** (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25).

B. It was surrounded by **difficulties**.

1. There was perceived scandal. Who believed Mary's story? Before being visited by an angel, Joseph thought Mary had been unfaithful to him (Matthew 1:18-20).
2. The Lord also came into the world totally impoverished. Being placed in a manger, meant that He was placed in a feeding trough for animals! See Luke 2:7.

C. It was both **celebrated** and **opposed**.

1. It was celebrated by magi, and Simeon, and angels, and shepherds (Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:8-20, 25-32).
2. It was opposed by Herod (Matthew 2:16). Herod killed hundreds of babies in an effort to kill Jesus (the King of the Jews).

II. Beyond the Birth of Jesus

A. We will be challenged by His **teaching**.

1. The baby Jesus doesn't reveal a standard for our lives.
2. We can't expect to be saved without adhering to the words of Jesus (John 6:66-69).

B. We will be challenged by His **holiness**.

1. Jesus was holy at the highest level (1 Peter 1:14-16; Hebrews 4:15).
2. By considering His example, we see that we can be holy as well!

C. We will be challenged by His **sacrifice**.

1. Jesus was born for the purpose of dying for our sins (Matthew 1:21; Isaiah 53:5-6). He was born to the Lamb of God (John 1:29).
2. Jesus understood this was His purpose (Matthew 16:21). This reality reminds us that we are sinners who need a Savior!

Conclusion: Above anything else, let us be thankful that Jesus **was born to be our savior**.

- Shawn Jeffries