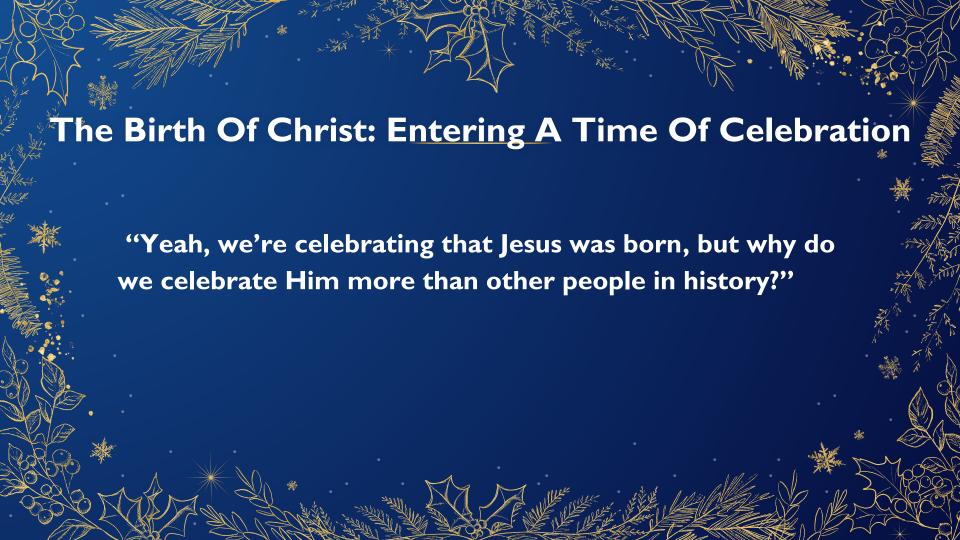
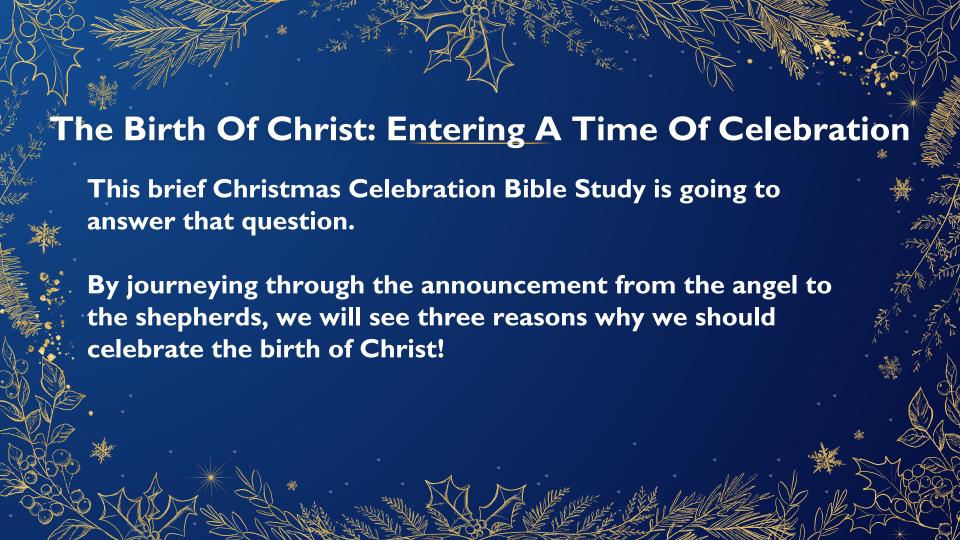




As we enter the Christmas Season, we move into a time of celebration and festivities. Celebrating the Birth of Christ is central to this time of year!

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, sometimes during those rare moments when we're able to get some peace and quiet, away from the hustle and bustle, we may find ourselves wondering....





The Birth Of Christ: Entering A Time Of Celebration

Session one takes us through the following three reasons that we'll look at:

Reason One:

He had to be born of a virgin at a specific time in history.

Reason Two:

He was sent in a joint agreement among the Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit).

Reason Three:

✓ His birth made it possible for us to be sons & daughters of God.

Announcement Of The Angels To The Shepherds

But WHEN THE PROPER TIME HAD FULLY COME, GOD SENT HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, born subject to the regulations of the Law, To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, that we might be adopted and have sonship conferred upon us and be recognized as God's sons. (Galatians 4: 4-5 Amplified Classic)

But WHEN THE RIGHT TIME CAME, GOD SENT HIS SON, WHO WAS BORN FROM A WOMAN, and lived under the law. God did this so that He could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. God's purpose was to make us His children. (Galatians 4: 4-5 ERV)



SESSION ONE:

Christ had to come at a specific time in History and He had to be Born of a virgin

Three elements that made things right were that I). Christ came according to prophecy, 2). He was born into a religiously oppressive and corrupt Jewish system and 3). He had to come at an optimal time in governmental history.



I). ACCORDING TO PROPHECY*

There are two commonly used and well known prophecies:

- √ "Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin [young woman] shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."(Isaiah 7:14)
- For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)
 - *Additional prophecies: Daniel 9:24-27, Numbers 24:17, Micah 5:2



2a). HE WAS BORN INTO A RELIGIOUSLY OPPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT JEWISH SYSTEM

There had to be a Jewish, religious legalistic system run by oppressive, uncaring leaders

How terrible it will be for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make a single convert, and when this happens you make him twice as fit for hell as you are. (Stated by Jesus in Matthew 23:15 ISV)



2b). HE WAS BORN INTO A RELIGIOUSLY OPPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT JEWISH SYSTEM

There had to be oppressed people seeking to be accepted by God, while also seeking rest from the religious legalistic system

- ✓ Come to me all of you who are tired from the heavy burden you have been forced to carry. I will give you rest. Accept my teaching. Learn from me. I am gentle and humble in spirit. And you will be able to get some rest. (Stated by Jesus in Matthew 11: 28-29 ISV)
 - We have a chief priest who is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin. (Hebrews 4: 15 CW)

2c). HE WAS BORN INTO A RELIGIOUSLY OPPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT JEWISH SYSTEM

Jesus Christ had to live as a human being, who obeyed and submitted to God from a pure, uncorrupted human nature, living in a way that went past the legalistic outward demonstrations of the law.

And the Word [Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. Except only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, 'He has declared Him. (John 1: 14-18 NKJV)

2d). HE WAS BORN INTO A RELIGIOUSLY OPPRESSIVE AND CORRUPT JEWISH SYSTEM

Being born and living as a man, He knows what it's like to experience the challenges that people face throughout life. This enables Him to empathize with us on a human level.

✓ "The angel said to Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will covery you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God." (Luke 1: 35 ICB)

"But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11)

3). HE CAME AT AN OPTIMAL TIME IN GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY

There had to be a governmental/legal system in place that would use crucifixion [hanging on a tree] as a perfected means of shameful, disgraceful punishment^{1,} which was utilized by the Roman government.

"The most famous crucifixion in the world took place when, according to the New Testament, Jesus was put to death by the Romans... Crucifixion most likely began with the Assyrians and Babylonians, and it was also practiced systematically by the Persians in the sixth century B.C.

From there, Alexander the Great, who invaded Persia as he built his empire, brought the practice to eastern Mediterranean countries in the fourth century B.C.... But Roman officials weren't aware of the practice until they encountered it while fighting Carthage during the Punic Wars in the third century B.C.... For the next 500 years, the Romans "perfected crucifixion..."

- ✓ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us—because it is written, Everyone who is hung on a tree is cursed. (Galatians 3: 13 CEB)
- ✓ He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed. (I Peter 2:24 NIV)
 - The Law was used to lead us to Christ. It was our teacher, and so we could be made right with God by putting our trust in Christ. (Galatians 3:24 NLV).

 https://www.livescience.com/65283-crucifixion-history.html



Learning that Jesus Christ fulfilled prophecy, by being born of a virgin, at a specific time in history is just the beginning of our Celebration Of The Birth Of Christ Series.

We hope you enjoyed Session One and got a glimpse as to why we celebrate The Birth of Christ and why we should celebrate it all year long.



We invite you to visit us at The Church Connected.

Let us know if you enjoyed the session by connecting with us at www.thechurchconnected.org

Download the PDF at

https://thechurchconnected.org/bible-study-old/christmas-2021/

See you next week for Session Two......



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