



## Why Jesus Came Matthew 1:18-21

There is something about the birth of the \_\_\_\_\_ in Bethlehem some two thousand years ago that is unique and significant; it is different from your birth and mine, and different from the birth of any of our children. It is so different that it is hard for some people to believe it's \_\_\_\_\_. Today I would like us to get \_\_\_\_\_ the nativity scene, push aside the tree and the tinsel, and try to get past Santa Claus and the department store, and look beyond the folk religion to \_\_\_\_\_ "Why Jesus Came."

Even \_\_\_\_\_ about two thousand years, even in the very sophisticated, enlightened and scientific culture of our times, and in spite of all the efforts of some people to prevent it, Jesus Christ still means more to human \_\_\_\_\_ than any other person who has ever lived! There is \_\_\_\_\_ about Him that is unique.

He claimed to be distinctive; He said that He was the "\_\_\_\_\_ of God." Others had said that, but He was \_\_\_\_\_; He had credentials. The crowds who heard Him \_\_\_\_\_ said He was different (Matthew 7:28-29). The people who worked with Him, ate with Him, prayed with Him and traveled with Him; the people who were closest to Him \_\_\_\_\_ there was something distinctively different about this man Jesus. They \_\_\_\_\_, "Truly, You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). He was the Son of God, not in the same way that all of us are sons of God according to Acts 17:28, not even in the same way that we \_\_\_\_\_ sons of God by faith in Him in Galatians 3:26-27, but He was God come to live in a fleshly \_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:1).

Matthew gives some of the \_\_\_\_\_ of His birth (Matthew 1:18-21). Luke gives us even more, but Mark \_\_\_\_\_ over the story of His birth, and begins with His baptism to tell of His ministry. All John, the fourth gospel writer, has to say about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus is in what is often called the "prologue" to his gospel (John 1:1-3 and verse 14). Here is the \_\_\_\_\_ affirmation of the Deity, the preexistence and the incarnation of Jesus the Christ. "He was in the \_\_\_\_\_. He was \_\_\_\_\_ God. He \_\_\_\_\_ God. All things were \_\_\_\_\_ by Him; and without Him was not anything made that is made. And He was made \_\_\_\_\_ and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." The idea that Jesus was God's Son, \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven on a divine \_\_\_\_\_ and was to return to the Father upon the completion of that mission runs all through the gospel of John. Why did Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the Heavenly abode to \_\_\_\_\_ among us as a man?

Jesus Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_ God to the world. The last sentence of the prologue to John's gospel says, "No man has \_\_\_\_\_ God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has \_\_\_\_\_ Him (or He made him fully known)." "Thomas, one of the twelve, said, '\_\_\_\_\_ us the Father' and Jesus answered him, 'He who has seen \_\_\_\_\_ has seen the father'" (John 14:1-10). If you want to \_\_\_\_\_ what God is like, study Christ. God was manifested among men in the \_\_\_\_\_ of His only begotten Son who became flesh and lived among us.

There is the theme of fulfillment that runs throughout His \_\_\_\_\_, the idea that "the time has come" for God to step into the current of human events and world events and bring to pass all He had promised through all of those Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_. Mark says that after His baptism and temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is at hand; repent you, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). His earthly ministry is nothing less than the \_\_\_\_\_ achievement of God's purposes in these Old Testament prophecies. To say, as the premillennialist does, that He did not fulfill the prophecies nor establish the kingdom, is a denial of His sovereign power, and to deny Him the realization of His mission.



The Jews knew their \_\_\_\_\_ well, and they believed them. As many do today, they often misunderstood them, but because of the Scriptures, they were full of hope and expectation at Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_. Often John pointed to the Messiah who was to come to fulfill God's \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ referred to Himself as the Messiah. He probably refrained from using such "politically loaded" terms, lest the Jews would view Him in a political \_\_\_\_\_, as the means of their national restoration. And He didn't advocate, or even support others who favored armed rebellion against \_\_\_\_\_. His was another \_\_\_\_\_ of kingdom—a kingdom of righteousness and joy and peace in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). He more frequently used Daniel's reference, "the Son of \_\_\_\_\_."

When Pilate \_\_\_\_\_ Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" (John 18:33), Jesus asked him whether he was asking a political question or a spiritual one. If Pilate meant a king over a kingdom of territorial bounds and a threat to Caesar, the answer is "\_\_\_\_\_." And He explained that if that were the case, Pilate would have had a \_\_\_\_\_ on his hands. Because, He said, "My \_\_\_\_\_ is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here. Pilate therefore said to Him, Are You a king then? Jesus answered . . . For this cause I was \_\_\_\_\_, and for this cause I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world." Oh yes, Jesus is King now; He reigns today in the \_\_\_\_\_ of all people of all nationalities and tongues and tribes who hear and believe the \_\_\_\_\_, who accept Him as their Lord, and decisively respond to His \_\_\_\_\_ in repentance and baptism in His name. They are all \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom, right here and now, else Jesus failed in the mission that demanded His birth of the virgin of which we read. We have looked beyond the Babe in the \_\_\_\_\_ to see Jesus as King of kings and Lord of Lords.

All that leads us to Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ statement of purpose in Luke 19:10. "The Son of man is come to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was \_\_\_\_\_." Obviously then, without the birth of Christ, man is lost; and without His coming, we would \_\_\_\_\_ lost. The name "Jesus" was carefully \_\_\_\_\_ of God Himself for Jesus because it comes from the same root word from which we also get the word "save." His name declared His \_\_\_\_\_; He came to save lost souls. This fact is seen in many passages: Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:10-11; Romans 1:4; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

It was necessary for the Son of God to \_\_\_\_\_ a man, to submit Himself to all the human frailties, fleshly weaknesses and temptations common to all our lives, even to dying, that He might \_\_\_\_\_ a merciful and unfailing High Priest, and to be \_\_\_\_\_ to aid and assist, and support and strengthen all of us when we are tried and tempted (Hebrews 2:4-8).

See beyond the toys and tinsels and through all the crass commercialism of the season and \_\_\_\_\_ Him to be more than the Babe in Bethlehem's manger.

Know Jesus Christ:

- as the revelation of God,
- as the Savior of the world,
- as King over His existing kingdom, and
- as an unfailing High Priest who is able to comfort and strengthen you.

His mission can be summarized with the "\_\_\_\_\_ text" of the Bible (John 3:16), though "believe" in this verse does not mean just to give credence to; it means \_\_\_\_\_ acceptance of His teaching in an obedient response. It was the risen Christ Himself who said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).