

Significance of the birth

Let's review the story of Christ being born - Matt 1:18-25 - 18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus*, because he will save his people from THEIR SINS." 22 All this took place to **fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:** 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he had no union with her **UNTIL** she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. (ISA 7:14 Isa 9:6-7) ***(Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua which means Lord saves.)**

Why did Jesus need to be born if he always was? - John 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!"

This plan was put in place before the beginning of time -

Eph 1:3-4 - 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

2 Tim 1:8-9 - 8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, 9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life — not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

It's not just Adam, we all fall short

Rom 3:9-10 - 9 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. 10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The outcome is eternal devastation - Rom 6:22-23 - 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, **the benefit you reap leads to holiness**, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the **WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God offered guidance through law and a covenant but once again man failed because of man –

Being under the Law Man failed because of man - Rom 8:1-4 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the **LAW WAS POWERLESS TO DO IN THAT IT WAS WEAKENED BY THE SINFUL NATURE**, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who DO NOT LIVE according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

It failed because man failed to keep their side of the covenant with God - Heb 8:7-9 - 7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said: "The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

God's Love for the world was the reason He sent his Son to be punished in our place in order that we may avoid "deserved death" and have access to "undeserved life eternally" - John 3:16-21 - 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 **WHOEVER BELIEVES** in him is not condemned, but **WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE** stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 **Everyone who does evil hates the light**, and will not

come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

Jesus gave up all of his glory to become like us in order to save us - Phil 2:5-8- 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, **BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD**, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but **MADE HIMSELF NOTHING, TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT**, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

He was made just like us in every way - Heb 2:14-17 - 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 **FOR THIS REASON** he had to be made like his brothers in EVERY WAY, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

He was tempted just like us in every way - Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — **YET WAS WITHOUT SIN**.

He died for everyone - Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Now all have access to what Jesus has brought to the world and it does more than just saves us from destruction, it trains us how to live presently - Titus 2:11-14 - 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who GAVE HIMSELF FOR US to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Let's put it all together

- **A plan put in place before the beginning of time**
- **Man was Created to follow God and on his own he failed**
- **God gave man a chance to do it right, gave man a set of instructions and an agreement between HIM and man...Man failed!**
- **Jesus, who always existed was born Just like man to take the place of man and succeed.**
- **He was punished in the place of man offering him Life eternally**

Let's celebrate Christmas and everyday recognizing that God sent into the world the only one that is able to save us and to keep us-Jude 24-25 - 24 **TO HIM** who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— 25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Let us not limit praising God and doing good to others just at Christmas time - Heb 13:15-16 - 15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.