

Christmas
Good News in Troubling Times (Part 5)
The Meaning of Christmas
(Lk.2:6-19)

Introduction: Are you experiencing the power of the advent in every area of your life? The Latin word for advent means “to come.” And is used primarily to designate a period of time just before Christmas.

During which Christians prepare for the Christmas season and reflect on the meaning of the coming of Christ into the world. That is what we want to do this Christmas Eve morning. But did you know, we can experience in Christ, a daily Advent. We can experience in us daily what happened in Bethlehem those many years ago when Jesus came to us and for us. I want us to spend some time today rediscovering the meaning of Christmas which begins with advent.

I. The first Christmas was an advent: As the angel announced the coming of Christ. (vv. 9-12)

1. The birth of our Lord was different from all other births. (Jn.1:1-2; Col 1:15-18; Heb 13:8)

- This baby lying in the manger was – the Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the end! Eternal God come to this earth in the form of humanity on a mission!

2. The birth of Jesus was an advent, a coming of God into this world on a special mission. So, when Luke writes... (v.6) “*the days were completed...*”

- a. This is far more than a reference to Mary being full term...
- b. But this is more than a reference to Mary’s full term; rather it is a reference to God’s full term and timing for this “advent” (Gal 4:4-5; 2 Cor 8:9; Phil 2:5-8) In other words...

3. The baby Jesus did not come to be He already was. Through His birth He came to earth taking on humanity.

- a. Early Christians decided on December 25th; not to Christianize a pagan holiday or feast... But rather –
- b. To proclaim the supremacy of Christ over all other superstitions and false gods of their times!
 1. You cannot have Christianity without Christ!
 2. And if you are a believer in Christ today – everyday is a celebration of this advent! For Christ has not just come into your world –He has come into your life!
 3. According to Heb. 13:8, I can experience His same power and presence in every way, every day of my life!

II. The first Christmas was an amazing event: (v.26-35) *Jesus came into the world through a virgin.*

1. **The question of the miracle of the virgin birth is a relevant question,** because if Jesus was not born of a virgin, He was just an ordinary man.
2. **The claims of the virgin birth –**

- *Both Matthew and Luke record the virgin birth.* The prophet Isaiah said He would be born of a virgin.
- The doctrine of God the Son demands the virgin birth, and the doctrine of the triune God does so as well.
- The whole Christian faith rides on it.
 - a. But the greatest proof of Jesus being born of a virgin is not in the data surrounding His birth, but rather the life He lived after His birth.
 - b. There is no other explanation for one who lived a perfect life as He did.

3. The virgin birth reveals that Christ was God in the flesh –

- a. The only realistic explanation for all of this is that Jesus was God in the flesh,
- b. And if He was God in the flesh, He would have to have come through a virgin to escape having a sinful nature.
- c. It was Adam who sinned (Rom. 5:12) Therefore sin is passed through the seed of man.
- d. The first prophecy of Jesus coming was given by God the Father in Gen. 3:15; He said Jesus would come from the seed of the woman.

We know biologically, women don’t have seed, they have eggs. (So, as the angel Gabriel explained – Jesus would be God’s son – and His conception would be an act of the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 1:37-38)

4. The virgin birth declares the purpose of God. (Matt 1:21; Lk. 2:11; 2 Cor 5:21)

What an amazing thought that Christmas means *God came to earth and took on humanity in the form of a baby so that God would come to us, for us and to be with us!*

III. That first Christmas was for our advantage: (Matt 1:23)

That is the real meaning of Christmas, that in Jesus, God has come to be with us!

The real meaning of Christmas is not the birth [or as some see it] the beginning of Jesus. What we celebrate is that in Jesus, God has come to be with us!

1. On that first Christmas, God made His greatest revelation to man – (Jn. 1:18) In Jesus we see God as He is.

2. On that first Christmas God showed His most awesome power – (Jn.3:16; 1 Jn.1:9; Jn.10:10; Rom.6-8).

3. On that first Christmas God came to earth–

The real meaning of Christmas is that in Jesus, God has come to be with us which is to our advantage, and He is coming again!

Conclusion: The meaning of Christmas is simple; that we can be filled every day, and in every way, daily with advent of Christ’s presence and power because He has come into our lives, born in us!

God with us, and God in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord!