

CHRISTMAS AND WONDERFUL THOUGHTS ABOUT JESUS

Galatians 4:4-5 Luke 2:1-20 Isaiah 9:6-7

Introduction: Christmas is the sudden revealing of things that had been going on for centuries but in God's timing were revealed when He was ready for everyone to see what His wonderful plan for everyone was. A Savior, the Messiah, the long awaited Son of God had finally come.

I. THERE HAD BEEN WONDERFUL PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

1. Through Abraham God raised up a NATION from which Jesus would come.
2. Through Jacob came the chosen TRIBE of Judah from which Jesus would come.
3. Through Jessie came the FAMILY that would bear the MESSIAH.
4. To Micah, God whispered the name, BETHLEHEM.
5. To Daniel was revealed the TIME of the Savior's birth.
6. In Malachi, God spoke of the forerunner of Jesus, JOHN, THE BAPTIST.
7. In Jonah, the picture of the Lord's RESURRECTION was given.
8. And when Jesus Christ did come, He fulfilled all these predictions.

II. CHRISTMAS REVEALS THE WONDERFULNESS OF JESUS' BIRTH

1. The EARTHLY child of the HEAVENLY Father and the HEAVENLY child of an Earthly Father.
2. People would have chosen a PALACE for Jesus' birthplace but God chose a STABLE.
3. People would have prepared a ROYAL BABY BED but God prepared a FEEDING TROUGH.
4. People would have provided SILKEN ROBES but God chose the SWADDLING clothes of a peasant.
5. People would have selected EXPENSIVE PERFUMES and spices but God picked the ODORS OF A STABLE.
6. The PRINCE OF GLORY couldn't find a room in a Bethlehem boarding house. The KING OF KINGS, the son of a carpenter's wife. What a blow to the pride of mankind.
7. Jesus' birth was made known to SHEPHERDS who represented the working class, to wise men, who represented the student group, to Simeon and Anna who represented the worshipping people.
8. Jesus is the OBJECT of all true study, "*for in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*"
9. Jesus is the OBJECT of all true worship, "*..every knee shall bow...and confess Jesus is Lord...*"

III. THE LIFE OF JESUS ON EARTH WAS ONE OF WONDER

1. Only 30 years to live, yet Jesus was still a CARPENTER.
2. He never hurried for He was the first and is the last.
3. He was the BREAD OF LIFE but went hungry for 40 days.
4. He offered the WATER OF LIFE, yet often was thirsty for ordinary drinking water.
5. He could still a raging sea and in the next moment bless little children to ran to Him.
6. He could preach to multitudes and yet take time to talk to a sinful woman at a water well.
7. He wrote no books, but ever since He lived here have been libraries printed about Him.
8. He founded no schools or colleges, yet the world's greatest scholars have said, "No man spoke like this man..."
9. He led no army but has been the captain of more spiritual soldiers than all the great generals put together.
10. He never bothered with politics but has upset every government that has rejected Him and will some day smite the very last world empire.
11. He had no money, but all charitable institutes look back to Him as their invisible founder.
12. Jesus never married but attended wedding celebrations.
13. He had no home of His own, yet Christian homes bear His name.
14. He was the King of Kings but the kings of earth sought to kill Him.
15. He was the TEACHER OF ALL TEACHERS but the teachers of His day wanted nothing to do with Him.
16. He was the object of all worship but the religious people of His day killed Him.
17. He was the SINLESS ONE but it was the sinners who invited Him to their homes and dinner.
18. He could stop a funeral procession and raise the dead but nobody stopped His funeral procession when He carried the cross

down the streets.

19. He laid aside a CROWN OF GLORY but the world gave Him a CROWN OF THORNS.

20. His hands touched feverish brows and made the sick well again, but the hands of others slapped Him and pulled His beard.

IV. WHEN SAID AND DONE, JESUS' DEATH WAS ONE OF WONDER

1. He was MURDERED OUTSIDE the city gates as if His blood might defile Jerusalem.
2. Even nature revolted at His death for the sun refused to shine and the earth quaked to raise the dead.
3. As He hung on the cross all types of humanity passed by:
 - IGNORANCE in the unknowing Roman soldiers.
 - INSOLENT as people passed by wagging their heads.
 - IRREVERENCE as people looked up at Him and made fun saying, "*...He could save others but not Himself...*"
 - INDIFFERENCE as people stood by, just staring.Of all that motley crowd, only a dying thief was blessed as He called upon the name of Jesus.

V. HOW WONDERFUL WAS JESUS' RESURRECTION

1. Jesus' body was laid in a grave, "Made Secure" but, "**up from the grave He arose...**"
2. Unbelief put soldiers at the grave to guard it, but, "**up from the grave He arose...**"
3. Death made the grave secure, but, "**up from the grave He arose...**"
4. The World, the Flesh and the Devil, all made the grave secure, but, "**up from the grave He arose...**"

VI. THE PRESENT MINISTRY OF JESUS IS ALSO WONDERFUL

1. Jesus is not just a memory of a man buried in a Palestine tomb.
2. Jesus LIVES today, forever, to make intercession for us and if any Christian does sin, he/she has an ADVOCATE, Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
3. Jesus AROSE, He ASCENDED, yet anytime where there are two or three gathered together in His Name, He is there.
4. Jesus is not FAR AWAY, but HERE!

VII. HOW WONDERFUL IS JESUS' POWER TO SAVE

1. God's promised Son was called "JESUS" because He would save His people.
2. After being saved and then looking again upon that same scenery things are entirely different, the world is different.
3. "Once I was blind, but now I see..."
4. Whosoever believes in Jesus shall be saved.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year for many and it is because it celebrates God sending His Son, Jesus to live, die, rise from the dead, ascend and become the "means" whereby whosoever would believe in Him would be saved.
2. Everything about Jesus is wonderful which tells us how much God cares for us and wants us to be with Him forever.
3. What does Christmas mean to you?