MORE THAN A BABY

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**DATE: 12/19/2010; 12/16/2018 am**

**TEXT: Matthew 1:18-25**

**INTRODUCTION**

The year was 1809

The international scene was turbulent

Napoleon was sweeping across Austria; people were dying

Nobody was thinking about the birth of babies

Yet there were some very significant births that year

For example, in England, William Gladstone was born

He was destined to become one of England’s finest statesmen

That same year, Alfred Tennyson was born to an obscure minister and his wife

The child would one day greatly affect the literary world

And here in American, Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts

He became a Doctor and famous poet

Not far away in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic, life

It was also in that same year that a couple with the last …

… name of Darwin named their child Charles Robert

And that same year produced the cry of a newborn infant in a rugged log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky

The baby’s name? Abraham Lincoln

If there had been News broadcasts at the time …

I’m certain this is what we would have heard:

*“The destiny of the world is being shaped on an Austrian battlefield today”*

But history was actually being shaped in the cradles of England and America

Similarly, when Jesus was born, a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news ever: the birth of the Saviour

Whatever your stand is on Christmas today, there is one thing for sure

And that is, that a baby was born to a virgin in Bethlehem

On that night the greatest birth in history occurred

There has never been a baby born that affected history and mankind as the baby that was born that night

There has been no birth like this birth, and will never be another like it

This baby was born of a virgin

This was a Birth like no other and a Baby like no other

In truth, this baby was ***More Than a Baby!***

Joseph was made aware that this baby was ***more than a baby…***

When the angel of the Lord appeared unto Him in a dream

For Joseph, the events of those days left him perplexed and troubled

The woman that he was engaged to was already pregnant

What was he to do?

How was he to handle the situation?

Look at **v.20 …**

God sent a messenger to assure Joseph that this was -

 ***“More Than A Baby”***

Let’s look at the news the angel brought to Joseph and see why this baby was …

***“More Than A Baby”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

One of the things the angel revealed to Joseph was -

**I. THE “NAME” OF THIS BABY**

We read in **v. 21 –** ***“And she shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins”***

There are a couple of things about the Name of this Baby that I would like to look at

First, it was -

**A. An ‘Appointed’ Name**

When it comes to naming babies’

People are guided by all kind-of factors

**Ill.** A poll on Babyzone.com asked parents how they named their babies. And in the poll, 21% said they choose a family name, 2% chose a name after a geographical location, 12% were guided by religion, 11% by nationality, and 33% by the parent’s choice.

**Ill.** According to Social Security Number card applications, the five most popular names for girls are 1) Emily, 2) Madison, 3) Hailey, 4) Kaitlyn, 5) Hannah. The five most popular names for boys are 1) Jacob, 2) Michael, 3) Matthew, 4) Joshua, 5) Nicholas

As far as Mary and Joseph were concerned,

They didn’t have to make that decision

His name was chosen for them

This baby was Not named after his father or other family member

His name was Not chosen from the list of the most popular Jewish names of the day

This baby was Divinely named

He was named by His Eternal Father

They were to call Him ***“Jesus”!***

It was an **‘Appointed’ Name**

Next, we see that it was …

**B. An ‘Appropriate’ Name**

Names always have meaning

For example, the name Aaron is a Hebrew name that means *lofty, exalted, High Mountain*

There was a time when parent would name their children the way they hoped they would turn out

For Example …

Terry is Latin, a form of Terence that means *tender, gracious and good*

Rick is German, a form of Richard, and means *strong ruler*

Sherry is French and means *Beloved*

Darin is Persian and means *precious, present*

So in regards to appropriate names,

No baby was more appropriately named than Jesus

The ***“Je”*** in the name speaks of ***“Jehovah”***

The ***“sus”*** means ***“Saviour”***

Together the name means*,* ***“Jehovah is Saviour”***

How fitting and appropriate then for the angel of the Lord to declared in **v. 21 –**

***“He shall save His people from their sins”***

**Ill.** John Newton wrote these words to a song - *How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, And drives away his fear. It makes the wounded spirit whole, And calms the troubled breast; ‘Tis manna to the hungry soul, And to the weary, rest.*

**Ill.** Franklin Belden echoed the same sentiments in his great hymn *“There’s no other name like Jesus” - ‘Tis the dearest name we know, ‘Tis the angel’s joy in Heaven, ‘Tis the Christian’s joy below.*

Why is the name ***“Jesus”*** so Sweet, so Near and so Dear to our hearts?

Because it’s the name that declares He is the One who saved us from our sins

→ If our greatest need had been information,

God would have sent us an educator

→ If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist

→ If our greatest need had been money,

God would have sent us an economist

→ If our greatest need had been pleasure,

God would have sent us an entertainer

But none of these were our greatest need

Our greatest need was Forgiveness!

So God sent us a Saviour!

***“Jesus”*** is the name that Identifies Him as the Saviour

Not only do we see …

**THE “NAME” OF THIS BABY**

But also …

**II. THE “NATURE” OF THIS BABY**

We read in **v. 23 –**

***“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”***

First, we see in the angel’s words …

**A. A ‘Miraculous Conception’**

The angel declared –

***“Behold, a virgin shall be with child”***

This was to be no ordinary birth

This was to be a virgin conceiving and giving birth to a child

Hundreds of year earlier, the prophet Isaiah (**7:14**) said

***“Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son…”***

This was to be a birth … like no other, for this was to be a Miracle Birth

Perhaps no truth concerning Jesus Christ has been attacked more than His virgin birth

The Doubters and Deniers say that the virgin birth is physically impossible

I agree!

Yet, we are not talking about the natural

But the supernatural

When Mary asked in **Luke 1:34** –

***“How shall this be, seeing I know not a man”***

The angel answered her in **v.37** –

***“For with God nothing shall be impossible”***

There have always been those who have Doubted and Denied the miraculous virgin birth of the Lord Jesus

As long as time stands, there will be Doubters and Skeptics

Yet, that doesn’t change the fact that Jesus was virgin born!

A fundamental fact of our faith is that Jesus was virgin born

The virgin birth was a necessity

If Jesus had not been born of a virgin, He could not have been our Saviour

**A ‘Miraculous Conception’**

Furthermore, in the words of the angel we see …

**B. A ‘Gracious Condescension’**

If you had asked some of the folks around Bethlehem if anything exciting were happening

The answer would have been No

Little did they realize that God had personally made a visit to their home town

The angel not only declared that the birth of Jesus would be a Miraculous Birth

But that it would also be a Gracious Birth

Notice in **v. 23**, Jesus is ascribed a second name

We read - ***“…and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”***

The angel was declaring that this was no ordinary baby

In fact, he was saying that this baby was more than a baby

This baby was none other than God Himself!

He was not only ***“Jesus”,***

He was ***“Immanuel”*** - God with us!

Jesus had a birth, But He had no beginning

There was a moment when He became man, but He had always been God

The birth of Jesus was God becoming man to dwell among us that He might die for us

It was an act of Condescending Grace!

It revealed God’s great love for man and His desire to provide a way whereby man could be saved from their sin

The real meaning of Christmas is … that nearly 2000 years ago …

*God came down from heaven to earth to live among us as one of us*

*He was virgin born that He might be a sinless man to die for sinful man*

The baby that was born that night, was Jesus the Saviour

He was ***“Immanuel”*** - God with us!

**THE “NAME” AND THE “NATURE” OF THIS BABY**

Thirdly, we not only see the name and nature of the baby,

But also. lastly …

**III. THE “NEED” FOR THIS BABY**

I draw your attention to the statement in **v.21,** that reads

***“…for He shall save His people from their sins”***

In this statement we see What this Birth is all about

First, we are reminded of …

**A. The ‘Problem’ of Sin**

Man has a problem—a sin problem

As the Bible states in **Romans 3:23 –**

***“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”***

That little 3 letter word ***“all”*** tells us that everyone (none excluded) have a sin problem

The seriousness of this sin problem is that sin separates us from God

The holiness of God cannot allow sinful man in His presence for eternity

Furthermore,

The holiness of God demands that sin be punished

That punishment is eternal separation from God

In short, sin’s penalty is an eternity spent in hell

There’s **A** **Sin ‘Problem’**

But thank God there is …

**B. The ‘Provision’ for Sin**

God became flesh; Jesus was born that He might ***“save His people from their sins”***

This is what His Birth is all about

Jesus was born that He might become our Saviour

God became flesh, as I said earlier, …

… that He might dwell among us and die for us

The baby that was born that Night was …

***“more than a baby”***

He was God, who became man

That we could have a Saviour who would die for our sins

And make a way whereby we could be saved and forgiven of sin

**THE “NAME”**

**THE “NATURE”**

**THE “NEED”**

This was more than a Baby

This was God’s answer for Man’s Problem

**INVITATION**

Please Stand …

Heads bowed, eyes close, no one moving, Christians praying …