

Why the Incarnation Matters

The Christmas Message- 2014

December 13, 2015

Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

29 But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason ^cthe holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

To the Glory of God

Now this is perhaps the most detailed account of what the Bible says about the Birth of Jesus Christ- an amazing event that is called

"The Incarnation". Now the word "Incarnation" had to be *invented* by the early Church because there wasn't a word to describe when God became Man because God had never become Man before and would never become Man again- so they took the Latin word "Carne", which means: "*flesh*" or "*meat*", and they put the prefix "In" before it, and they got "Incarne", which is the "in-fleshing" or the "fleshing" of God.

And this word describes the single most amazing and magnificent miracle that the world has ever or will ever see- the moment when God Almighty *inserted* Himself into His Own Creation and became a part of that Creation and became Man.

You see, God is Holy. And that means that God is *distinct* or different from and superior to- everything that He made. Therefore, nothing or no one is like God. So the Mormons are wrong and God was never a Man who elevated himself based on what he did for himself.

The one, true, living God of the Bible is entirely unique and entirely separate from all of Creation. And the summation of all of God's individual Perfections are what makes Him to be "Holy" or set apart. The Bible asserts boldly and continuously and very clearly that God always was and was never made or created and all of this is what makes God *worthy* of our worship and *entitled* to our service and *deserving* of our love and our devotion and our obedience. And it is this pristine Holiness that makes it evil *not* to worship and adore and obey God.

So the one true living God of the Bible is patently *not* like Man. He has no physical body; He is not material; God cannot be touched or seen- He simply "is". God is not limited by either time or space- He is Omni-present- in that all of God is everywhere in all of His Creation- at all times.

The God of the Scriptures is "Omnipotent"- He is Almighty and is the absolute Sovereign over all of Creation, and is the one single Master of the Universe, and the absolute Lord over everything He has made. And because Jesus is God Almighty wrapped in human flesh- Jesus is Lord over every super nova and every sub-atomic particle and every thought and desire of every man on planet earth. Heaven, Hell, Man, and Beast- Salvation and Rebellion, Righteousness, Evil, all bow before King Jesus in complete submission and they exist and they serve at His Pleasure.

God reigns supreme over it all and nothing escapes His Eyes and nothing can deliver out of His Hand and nothing can thwart His Purpose and nothing can defeat His intentions. God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- all the time. And this God plans to humble every proud heart and He intends to utterly vanquish all who oppose His Will; and little by little- through Salvation now, and *ultimately* in Judgment- God will destroy all evil and all unrepentant evil doers when He returns.

And when you stop and think about just how sinful sin is to a God like this- it is unbelievable that we are not crushed under the weight of God's Wrath against our sins. And we need to know that we are *not* crushed for only one reason- the Glory of God's Name in choosing some unworthy sinners for Salvation, and the Glory of God's Grace in taking on human flesh and being born of a virgin and living a sinless life so He could die for the sins of the world and save us to the uttermost.

But even though it is real bad that God is absent in the minds of the lost- the absence of God in the Church among believers is completely unconscionable. Because the modern Church has left off being distinct *from* the world and we are now *part* of the world, and because we have lost the wonder and the awe and the fear of this majestic God- we know how to lose weight and how to balance our checkbooks and how to help the poor and how to live more moral lives- but we know less about God, and, therefore, we know less about the Incarnation than any generation of Christians in history.

We are "wowed" by technology and smart phones and special effects at movies and we stand in wonder of things that are passing away, and we marvel at money and what Government and Medicine can do for us- but we are no longer "wowed" by the Incarnation, we no longer stand in wonder of God taking on human flesh, and we no longer marvel at God inserting Himself into His Own Creation and becoming Man.

Now the Incarnation is really not that big a deal to most people today precisely because God Himself is really not that big a deal as more and more people are convinced that tipping your hat to God for a few moments on Sunday Morning or once a year at Christmas- *if* it is convenient- is the reason why Jesus screamed in agony on the Cross as God the Father poured His Wrath and Fury on Him.

Even as we possess the single greatest miracle that the world has ever known- the Incarnation- the pulpits of the modern Church are filled with politics and with social issues and with moral pronouncements and American Patriotism, but they are not filled with God. They are not filled with God and the *particularities* of His Person and so- we are left with very general and very vague and very shallow *generalities* about God that leaves our heads empty and that leaves our souls unconcerned and that leaves our flesh unmoved and unbroken about the infinite Majesty and Worth and Awe of the spectacular Glory of God.

And that is why, for example- most of us are no longer captured or overwhelmed by **the Glory of God's Eternality** and our minds no longer explode with the knowledge that God never had a beginning. Or why we are not amazed at **the Glory of God's Omniscience** that makes Quantum Physics look like a first grade reader. Or **the Glory of God's Wisdom** and we no longer stand in awe of the fact that God has never and will never be counseled by anybody. Or **the Glory of God's Omnipotence** in that God is Almighty so much so that without God's allowance- no man or beast or angel or demon on earth or in Heaven or in hell moves one single inch. We no longer tremble at the **Glory of God's Providence** whereby no bird hops on the ground and not one single leaf in the Amazon Forest falls to the ground and not one hair on our head turns white. Or **the Glory of God's Word** which upholds the entire universe and all the atoms and all the subatomic particles in it as well as all the galaxies and all the stars. Or **the Glory of God's Power** to walk on water and raise the dead and heal organic diseases and curse fig trees and open blind eyes and raise the dead and to cast arrogant and self-righteous sinners into hell fire. We are not "wowed" over **the Glory of God's Purity** whereby Jesus Christ never, ever sinned one single time; Jesus never had a bad attitude for even one millisecond; He never lusted- not one single time; He never coveted- ever; He never was envious or enacted vengeance. We are no longer moved over **the Glory of God's Trustworthiness**- where God *always* keeps His Word and He has never let one single Promise fall to the ground and He *cannot* lie. Or **the Glory of God's Justice**- whereby- at the end of all time- there will be no outstanding accounts left open and *everything* will be forever settled either on the Cross or in Hell- every man, woman and child will either be redeemed or they will burn forever in Hell, and there will be

absolutely no injustice. We no longer stand in awe of **the Glory of God's Patience**- as God endures decade after decade after decade of Blair Bradley's sin and agonizingly slow Sanctification. Or **the Glory of God's Slave like Obedience**- as Jesus fully embraced the most excruciating death ever invented by Man in humble and joyful obedience to His Father. Or **the Glory of God's Wrath** which one day will be poured out in such infinite fierceness that men and women and children will cry for the rocks to fall on them to hide them rather than have to look on the Face of the Lamb of God. Or **the Glory of God's Grace**- which justifies the worst sinner among us; or **the Glory of God's Love** that moved Jesus to die for us while we are yet sinners.

But I say to you that until we grasp and until we are so overwhelmed with all of the *particularities* of God's Glory- to the point where we thunder it from our pulpits and are consumed by it in our own daily lives, Until we make God to be so magnificently attractive in all of His various Attributes- *none* of our marriages and *none* of our money and *none* of our businesses and *none* of our lives will be lived to the Glory of God!

And please hear me when I tell you that the very *epitome* of the Vastness and infinite Worth of God's Glory is found in the Face of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is just an inkling of what it means for the Almighty God to take on human flesh and become Man, and that is *why* the Incarnation matters today. It is so much more than thoughts about a cute little baby in a manger once a year or throwing a quarter in the pot of the bell ringer standing in front of the store.

The result of God becoming Man is a great and a deep and a profound Mystery that should shake us down to the core of our being. The fact that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man at the same time in the same Body without conflict or contradiction should leave us in awe and should force us to be silent before Him and to put our hands over our mouths and bow before him in stunned admiration and wonder.

You see, what I just said makes Jesus to be 100% God and 100% Man. It makes Jesus to be the God-Man. It makes Jesus to be Yahweh with a human body. You take the very same Essence of God the Father and you put flesh on Him and you have the Person of God the Son or Jesus the Christ.

And this issue was so amazing, so utterly overwhelming that it changed not only the lives of countless individuals all throughout history- but it changed nations, it altered the course of Humanity for the last 2,000 years. This one single issue of Jesus Christ being both God and Man *consumed* the Christian Church for the first 1,000 years of its existence as heresy after heresy attacked either the full Deity or the full Humanity of Jesus Christ, and through the fires of these trials- the Church hammered out many of the fundamental Doctrines that supported the Christian Faith over the next 1,000 years.

But on the Day of Judgment- when God gathers every human from every nation to stand before Him and give an account of what they have said and what they have thought and how they have lived their lives- God will ask people why they did not believe the testimony of what Dr. Luke writes here in the Passage that Brother Andy just read to you, "*Why did you not believe the testimony of my servant Luke? Did he manifest the traits of a liar or a maniac? Was his teaching not consistent with itself? Did the message of his letter contradict reasonably established facts of history? Did his insights into your heart and the ways of God not help make sense of the reality of your life? Did his testimony not fit with the other testimonies about my Son? Why did you not believe Luke's testimony about My Son?*"

And on that day of Truth- there will only be one answer- the same answer given in **John 3:20&21** that says:

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

You see, my dear friends- it is *not* because we lack reliable information about the Truth of Christ as to why we are so slow to believe. It is *not* because we do not understand. People *refuse* to believe because to believe in Jesus, to be changed by Jesus, to see Jesus is to be broken and to be humbled under the mighty Hand of God, and to let the blackness of our hearts be exposed to the Light of God's Truth and Holiness. And our only recourse, the only response that makes any sense at all to this- would be to bow before Him and surrender our lives.

Many today are perfectly willing to believe in Jesus Christ- as long as He remains a little baby in a manger once a year, or a distant spiritual concept when we choose to ponder it. But when we preach that Christ has become a particular Man in a particular place at a particular point in History- Who issued particular Commands and died on a particular Cross exposing the particular sins of our particular lives- then this Jesus ceases to be acceptable for many.

I really don't think it is so much the mystery of the Divine and human nature in this one Man that causes most people to stumble over The Doctrine of the Incarnation. The real stumbling block is the idea that if this Doctrine is true- then every single person in the world must bow before and obey this one particular Jewish Man. Because if He is God incarnate- then everything He says is Law and everything He did is perfect. And the particularity of His Work and Word flow out into history in the form of a particular inspired Book (written in the particular languages of Greek and Hebrew) that claims an absolute universal Authority over every other book that has ever been written.

This is the real stumbling block of the Incarnation- that when God becomes a Man- He strips away every pretense that we have to raise *ourselves* to become "god". It means that we can no longer do our own thing- we have no right to live as we see fit and do what is right in our own eyes- but that we must do what this one Jewish Man *commands* us to do. We can no longer pose as self-sufficient- because this one Jewish Man says we are all dead with sin and must come to Him alone for life. We can no longer depend on our own wisdom and labor to find joy and contentment and fulfillment in life- because this one Jewish Man- Who lived for 30 obscure years in a little country in the Middle East says,

John 14:6

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

You see, when God becomes this Man- then all other men cease to be "god". And if Jesus is Lord- then every other king and lord and boss and husband and human and Government ceases to be the measure of all things, and this one Man becomes the measure of all things. And this is simply *intolerable* to the arrogant heart of unrepentant rebels.

So the Incarnation is a violent, blatant, and pervasive violation of the "bill of human rights" written by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is by nature- totalitarian. It's Authoritarian! It is, by definition- Imperialism! And Usurpation! And Absolutism!

Just Who does this Man think He is? Well, He thinks He is God Almighty in human flesh, and when He looks at anything that exists in the entire Universe- He points to it and He says, "*That's Mine!*" So based on that- "Who do *you* say that He- the Son of Man- is?"

So I urge you this morning to come to this Light and to ponder long and hard with me about the importance of this single event called "The Incarnation". And based on the inspired Passage that Brother Andy just read to us- I want to ask a couple of questions:

1. How did the Owner and Creator of the Universe insert Himself into His Creation?
2. Who came as a result of God inserting Himself into His Creation?

And based on what Dr. Luke wrote here- I have four answers to the first question and four answers to the second question. So question #1 is:

Just How Did the Owner and Creator of the Universe Insert Himself into His Creation?

And here are the four answers:

1.1 God inserted Himself into His Own Creation by doing the impossible.

Luke 1:37

For nothing will be impossible with God.

The angel Gabriel said this to Mary as the bottom line answer for *how* God can become Man in the womb of a virgin. When all our objections and reasons and intellect have exhausted themselves- this single Truth remains:

Nothing will be impossible with God.

And God had been preparing the world for this impossibility for thousands of years. Listen to these testimonies:

Thousands of years before Jesus was born- God asked Abraham:

**Genesis 18:14,
Is anything too hard for the LORD?**

About the same time- over in the Land of Uz- Job said:

**Job 42:2,
I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**

And more than 500 years before Mary gave birth to the Son of God- the Prophet Jeremiah said:

**Jeremiah 32:17
Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.**

And now here- just before the dawn of a new Century- the time has come for the most impossible thing to be done. God Almighty inserts Himself into His Own Creation to become a part of it- and He does this without ceasing to be the uncreated God.

1.2 God inserted Himself into His Creation by choosing to enter through the womb of a virgin.

Luke 1:26&27

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel says to her in verse 31:

“You will conceive in your womb and bear a son.”

And Mary responds in verse 34:

“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”—literally, “since I know no man.”

In other words- *“How will this happen seeing that I have never had sexual relations with a man? I am betrothed- I am engaged and promised to Joseph- but I’m not married. Joseph and I have not slept together.”* So any way you want to look at it- Mary was a virgin.

Now ever since God uttered the first Words to Man- satan has been trying to discredit them or to outright reject them, and we must be wise about this so that we are not naïve as to what is at stake here. That which God has said is True and it is valuable and is of the utmost importance to us today- and, therefore, the study and understanding of the Holy Scriptures- the Word of the Lord- is the most worthwhile effort that anyone can ever engage in because this collection of 66 Books is the only location on the face of the earth where inspired, inerrant, infallible Words are located.

And part of Divine Truth that is under unrelenting assault in our day is The Doctrine of the Virgin Birth. So I want to spend some time on the concept of the virgin Birth and why it is so vital for us today in the 21st Century.

According to *Christianity Today Magazine*- a full 45% of all those who stand behind the pulpits of American Churches do *not* believe in the Incarnation or the Deity of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Birth, and, in fact, many of them are so hostile to it- that they go out of their way to condemn what the Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches about this important event. So one of my goals in this sermon today is by God’s Grace to show you how important this Doctrine is, and then to show you how this Divine Truth ties in with your own personal Salvation in Jesus.

Now the Incarnation and the Deity of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus are all unique miracles in human history. This is the greatest miracle that has ever happened or that will ever happen as God Himself took on flesh and became Man. And this is the only time that this has or will ever occur.

And this is absolutely critical to the Christian Message. This is critical to the Gospel and therefore critical to our own Salvation. This

amazing Doctrine is critical to Christianity itself and to Biblical Theology because it protects the Nature of Christ as being both God and Man.

You see, Jesus had to be born of God to be Son of God. And He had to be born of a woman to be Son of Man. And so in this incredible miracle- Mary who is human and God Who is Divine are brought together, and a Son is born of God and of woman- Who is both God and Man- the God/Man Jesus Christ.

And the Nature of Jesus Christ as God and Man is at the heart of the Christian Faith. So much so- that if anyone denies or rejects the Deity of Jesus Christ- they are not Christian and they cannot possibly be saved- no matter what else they believe- because they have, in fact, fundamentally denied Who Jesus is.

When you take away the Incarnation, and by extension the Virgin Conception and Birth and the Deity of Christ, what you have left is a satanic, deceptive, counterfeit, lying religion invented by men and demons and not Divine Truth. If you eliminate these Truths- you no longer have Biblical Christianity- you have a fable.

Now you are free to create your own religion. And you are free to disagree with the claims that Scripture makes, you are free to disbelieve the Bible- but what you are *not* free to do is to do all of those things and be saved and call yourself a Christian- because you are not. Christianity has already been defined- thank you very much- and it is not debatable which particulars are included in the Christian Faith. The Christian Church for 2,000 consecutive years has believed and taught that Jesus was God and that He was born of a Virgin and that God Himself took on flesh and became Man. So if you choose to exclude those Truths from your mind and heart- just be honest about it and say that you're *not* a Bible believing Christian and start your own religion.

I have been asked by many people whether it is essential to Salvation for a person to believe that Jesus was conceived in a virgin. And the answer I always give is, "*Absolutely!*" because the Incarnation and the Virgin Birth are not side-issues that individual persons can take or leave- they are *essential* to saving faith.

You see, to be saved- you must put your full trust and confidence in what the Bible declares to be true about the finished Work and the Person of the one true Jesus Christ- and to do that- the Jesus that you

trust in- must be the Jesus of Scripture and not *another* Jesus that has been invented in your own head or created by some other Man.

To be saved- we must all believe that Jesus is exactly Who He said He was- and Who Jesus said He was – was both God and Man, and that belief- that confession- is preserved in this very Truth of the Incarnation.

So this was God's Sovereign Choice. An angel sent from God to a virgin. So God's chosen Way of inserting Himself into His Own Creation was that He would be conceived in the womb of a virgin. And this was prophesied almost 700 years earlier when the prophet Isaiah said:

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Now we should not speculate very far from the text as to just *how* God did it this way. The clearest answer that is in the Bible as to exactly how God did this- is found in verse 35,

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

God chose to be conceived in the womb of a virgin so that the Fatherhood of this Child would be absolutely unique. Jesus is the Son of God- not the son of Joseph. He has a *Divine* Father- not a *biological human* father. He is, therefore, Divine as God's Son.

Now we could stop there- because surely this is the most amazing news we could ever know. But if we believed everything that I just said- we still would not know the Biblical Jesus. Because even though it is absolutely true that Jesus was the Son of God and was fully Divine and had a Heavenly Father- not an earthly one- that is not *all* that Jesus was.

In addition to being fully Divine- Jesus was also fully human. So in addition to Jesus having a Divine Origin- He also had an earthly mother, and was also called "Son of Man".

This makes Jesus to be the single most unique Person Who ever lived. Nobody was ever like Jesus and nobody will ever be- fully God and fully Man. Son of God and Son of Man. Divine and Eternal and finite and mortal all at the same time.

1.3. God inserted Himself into His Creation by choosing for His Son a legal human father who would be an heir of David- the king of Israel.

Luke 1:26&27

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

For two thousand years, since the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God had been preparing for this moment in history. God spoke through a myriad of people- both prophets and kings- and gave Promise after promise that pointed to the day when a Son of David would come- a King and a legal Heir to the Throne.

One of those prophecies from the mouth of Isaiah in **Isaiah 11:9&10** says:

9 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

10 Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.

And at the end of the Bible- in **The Book of the Revelation 22:16** Jesus waves His Banner over all of history with these words:

I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.

So God broke into the universe- not as a generic human being- but as a Jew- in fulfillment of 2000 years of covenant promises so that Israel would glorify God for His Truthfulness, and all the nations would glorify God for His Mercy. He came as the Son of David and as the Son of God- and also as the Son of David- a Jew with legal rights to the

throne of Israel to vindicate every promise, and a man to identify with every nation.

1.4. God inserted Himself into His Own Creation by sending His Holy Spirit with Divine Power to impregnate the virgin Mary with a Divine Child.

Mary asks the angel in **Luke 1:34**:

How can this be, since I am a virgin?

And the very next verse- verse 35- might be one of the most important statements that has ever been made in any book in all of history. You ask "How," Mary? Here's how:

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

God the Holy Spirit- the third Person of the Trinity- with impossibility-working-Power- the very Power of the Most High- will take the place of a human father, and under the shadow of His Wing- pure, virtuous, holy, unseen, mysterious- you will become pregnant with the Son of God.

So, in summary- that is how the first question is answered. This is what this Gentile medical doctor named Luke tells us about how the infinite and absolute God- powerfully and miraculously inserted Himself into His Own Creation. He inserted Himself in four ways:

1. By doing the impossible,
2. By choosing to enter the universe through a virgin,
3. By choosing a legal human father who would be an heir of David, the king of Israel,
4. By sending his Holy Spirit with Divine Power to impregnate the virgin Mary with a Divine Child.

Now we turn to the second question:

2. Who came as a result of God inserting Himself into His Creation?

And let's start with the controversial fact that the Person Who came as a result of God inserting Himself into His Own Creation is a king.

Luke 1:32&33

32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Three words in these two verses tell us that the Person Who came as a result of God inserting Himself into His Own Creation was a king:

- ✓ "Throne"— **"The Lord will give to him the *throne* of his father David;**
- ✓ "Reign"— **"And he will *reign* over the house of Jacob forever;"**
- ✓ "Kingdom"— **"And of his *kingdom* there will be no end."**

Now what makes this somewhat difficult for us to grasp is that we believe in democracy- not kingdoms. Saudi Arabia's system of Government is not a very attractive ideal to us. Democracy is what the world is moving toward. The nations of the world are moving away from kingdoms and into democracies. This is what we are fighting for in Iraq.

Rule by a king is a more primitive form of government. Democracies are far more advanced, far more developed, and far more suitable for the modern world. And this is where history is going— democracies- not kingdoms.

But we need to understand *why* the world is moving away from kingdoms. And please allow me to respond to this very soberly and very simply to this:

The only legitimate reason why kingdoms are not attractive to us is because in this age and in this world- the only kings who are available to rule are very finite and very sinful.

Listen to C. S. Lewis describe why he believes in democracy:

“A great deal of democratic enthusiasm descends from the ideas of people like Rousseau, who believed in democracy because they thought mankind so wise and good that everyone deserved a share in the government. The danger of defending democracy on those grounds is that they’re not true. . . I find that they’re not true without looking further than myself. I don’t deserve a share in governing a hen-roost, much less a nation. . . . The real reason for democracy is . . . Mankind is so fallen that no man can be trusted with unchecked power over his fellows. Aristotle said that some people were only fit to be slaves. I do not contradict him. But I reject slavery because I see no men fit to be masters”.¹

If there could be a king who is not limited in his wisdom and power and goodness and love for his subjects, then monarchy would be the best of all possible governments- which is exactly why when Jesus returns- there will not be any democracies- only the Kingdom of God. If such a ruler could ever rise in the world—with no weaknesses, no folly, and no sin- then no wise and humble person would ever want democracy again.

So the question is *not* whether God inserted Himself into His Creation as a King- because manifestly He did. The *real* question is: What kind of King is He? And what difference would this King make for you?

And there are four words in our text that answer those questions and they all imply that our fullest joy and our most complete satisfaction and our ultimate fulfillment would be best served by submitting to this King:

- A. Holy
- B. Son of God
- C. Jesus
- D. Forever

So let’s look at each of these briefly:

¹ C. S. Lewis, “Equality,” in *Present Concerns: Essays by C. S. Lewis*, qtd. in Wayne Martindale and Jerry Root, eds., *The Quotable C. S. Lewis* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1989), pp. 152-153.

A. Holy.

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

The word "Holy" normally means: *set aside or set apart*. But in this case- the Greek word that Luke used here also means: *pure, good, without any defect or deficiency or blemish*.

And that is full of hope for us, because it means that this Person is fit to die as a spotless Lamb of God in our place. And it also means that He is fit to rule as a flawless King. Unholy kings create the need for democracy. A perfectly holy King would create universal peace and perfect justice. And that's Who Jesus is- He is holy.

B. Son of God

Luke 1:32

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

This means that when God inserted Himself into His Own Creation- the Person He became was both Divine and human. So the King Who truly rules the world is not just the king of Israel as the son of David- but He is the King of kings and Lord of lords as the Son of God. And to have this King as your King is to be protected by infinite Power to the point where you are saved to the uttermost and no one can destroy you.

C. Jesus

Luke 1:31

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

God chose the Name of His Son: Jesus. And **Matthew 1:21** adds,
... you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

The English Name "Jesus" transliterates the Greek "Iesous", which corresponds to the Hebrew name "Joshua" or "Y'shua", which means: *Savior*. And this is huge. The King of the universe is given the Name of "Savior". And what makes this even more magnificent is that Jesus is not the Savior of the righteous- but He is a Savior of wicked sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

All of Jesus' Holiness, all His Deity and Power stand in the service of His Saving Mercy. God inserted Himself into His Own Creation to be a Holy, Divine, saving King.

D. Forever

Luke 1:33

and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.

The King of Israel- Who is also King of the entire universe- will never be replaced. There will never be elections for a new President of the universe. There will never be a successor sitting upon the throne of Jesus. His Kingdom is forever. Therefore, Salvation and His Protection are also forever.

God Almighty inserted Himself into His Own Creation to be a holy, divine, saving king forever. And that is the answer to the question:

Who came as a result of God inserting Himself into His Creation?

But there is one final question that I need to ask this morning.
And that is:

What does all this mean to you and your own Salvation?

And the answer to that question is this:

The King of the Universe has commissioned me on this day to publicly declare that there is an amnesty for all who have rejected His Kingship up to now. You see, before He sat down on the throne of the universe- Jesus died for our sins so that whoever would believe on Him might not perish but have eternal life.

Therefore, whoever here today lays down the arms of rebellion and receives the forgiveness of the King and swears allegiance to Him as the holy, divine, saving King will live forever. Those who reject Him or Who deny His existence or Who try to appease their own consciences by speaking highly of Jesus while living in such a way that patently denies Him will perish in their sins and they will face eternity- unwashed and unforgiven.

So in the Name of this King Jesus- bow before Him, confess your sins, turn from your wicked ways, and put your full faith and trust and confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ- the incarnate God- and in His finished and completed Work.

Amen. Let's pray

© 2008- 2015 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockmann Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of **The Gospel According to Luke**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.