

Pastor Allen Jackson



I. A Holy Event

A. Joseph

Matthew 1:18-22 (NIV[®])

¹⁸This 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. ¹⁹Because 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. ²⁰But 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."**

B. Mary

Luke 1:26-38 (NIV[®])

²⁶In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹**You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.** ³²**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,** ³³**and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."** ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

C. Shepherds

Luke 2:8-16 (NIV[®])

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.** ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

II. The Preeminence of Jesus

John 8:53, 56-58 (NIV®)

⁵³ **Are you greater than our father Abraham?** He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" . . . ⁵⁶ Your father **Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day**; he saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" ⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

Hebrews 3:1-3 (NIV®)

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ **Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses**, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

John 18:36-37 (NIV®)

³⁶ Jesus said, "**My kingdom is not of this world**. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." ³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "**You are right in saying I am a king**. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Jesus of Nazareth — Christ, Lord & King

III. Redemption

A. Life of a Servant

Matthew 20:17-19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, **he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them**, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

B. Gospels are a Revelation

John 1:29-31 (NIV®)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**" ³⁰ This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that **he might be revealed to Israel.**"

C. The Horror of Sin

Matthew 27:27-31 (NIV®)

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After

they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

D. The Divine Exchange

PRAYER

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

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