

## 4. Essential Verses of the Birth of Christ

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As I write this, it is early January. We have just completed another “Christmas” season. So, why the quotation marks around “Christmas?” It’s this... “Christmas” is not a Bible word. I agree with the sentiment of saying “Merry Christmas,” as opposed to “Happy Holidays.” But “Christmas” is definitely not a Bible word. Those who would like to see us use only Bible words, unfortunately also use the word, “Christmas.”

Some Christians have objected to the whole idea of celebrating Christmas. But I think it’s fun. I like Christmas trees<sup>1</sup>. I like candy. I even like fruitcake. Not many people like fruitcake. How about all the cookies, not to mention the big turkey and/or ham dinners. (I know of someone who actually makes lasagna for Christmas dinner!) But, I don’t associate any of that celebration with the idea of Christ’s birth. Those celebrations can be a fun family time together and serve to establish fun traditions. Even Santa Claus can be a fun tradition, when held in the proper manner.

Let’s try to put this all in perspective. I like Christmas trees, but I don’t worship them. I like the story of Santa Claus<sup>2</sup> but I would never encourage a child to believe that Santa brings their Christmas presents. He’s just a fun tradition. “Jesus is the reason for the season?” Not in some circles. “Happy Birthday Jesus!” Not really. Jesus Christ has always existed. We look to “Christmas” time

as the time that He became a man. And it must be noted that Jesus Christ was NOT born on December 25. It was merely a date that was used to celebrate the fact that daylight hours would now begin to increase. (Not such a bad idea!)

The Bible does not command or suggest that we honor and celebrate the birth of Christ. There is no one in the Bible that does that. We really don’t need one day to celebrate the coming of Christ. He is alive and with us every day! But don’t lose sight of the fact that His birth actually brought His death on the cross. And His death brought the resurrection; a fact that is far more important to remember than His birth as a man. But, I realize that Christmas is a time that people are thinking about “the true meaning of Christmas” and it can be a good time to share the message of the gospel. A good opportunity to speak with family and loved ones who ordinarily might turn us off.

And now for the verses...

1. Genesis 3:15; *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

This verse is the first prophecy of Jesus Christ. It indirectly implies the virgin birth, because the woman does NOT have the seed. The seed comes from the father. Eve certainly understood what God was saying, but jumped the gun in thinking God was fulfilling the promise with the birth of Seth: *And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another*

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<sup>1</sup> When I was a young boy, I remember going to my grandfather’s house in the country to pick out a tree for Christmas. We had to cut it down ourselves. I can still remember the fragrance of those trees!

<sup>2</sup> Have you noticed that most “Christmas” movies are about Santa Claus?

*seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.*  
Genesis 4:25.

2. Genesis 22:8; *And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

This is exactly what happened at the cross. God provided Himself to be the lamb. As John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29b) Jesus Christ took our place. This is why He came to the world as a man.

3. Genesis 49:10 *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.*
4. Numbers 24:17; *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall arise out of Israel, and shall smite the comers of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*

These passages are similar. Both are about the sceptre (who is Christ) coming out of Israel, specifically the tribe of Judah. In the Genesis passage He is also called “Shiloh.” He will be the true lawgiver, as opposed to Moses. He will be the ruler of Israel. We don’t often hear these verses associated with Christmas, but they are certainly about Christ.

5. Isaiah 7:14; *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin<sup>3</sup> shall conceive, and bear a*

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<sup>3</sup> I remember information given by Pastor Chuck Smith about this verse... the word translated “virgin” in KJB is translated “young woman” in RSV. This is because one of the translators of the RSV did not believe in miracles. Since the Hebrew word could mean either virgin or young woman, and since he did not believe in miracles, he used the words “young

*son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Some have asked if it is important to believe in the virgin birth of Christ. I believe that it is imperative to our faith to believe in the virgin birth of Christ. If she was not a virgin, who was the father? To be a virgin, but expecting a child, speaks of a miracle, as the story was related to Joseph. God was His father.

“Immanuel” of course means “God with us.” The father was in Christ. He was the embodiment of the father. God has not left us alone. He is with us.

6. Isaiah 9:6-7; *For unto us a son is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor. The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Handel included this verse in his musical “The Messiah.” Note the names of the child – Christ in this verse:

- Wonderful
- Counselor
- Mighty God
- Everlasting Father
- Prince of Peace

We don’t need to wonder whether or not Jesus Christ was God; it is declared very clearly in this passage. And not only that, it

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woman,” which of course would NOT be a miracle. NASB has the translation “maiden” in the margin. But, in Matthew 1:23 where the Isaiah verse is quoted, a Greek word is used that can only mean, “virgin.”

is clear that He will be the ruler on the throne of David.

7. Micah 5:2; *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*<sup>4</sup>

Again, the emphasis is on the fact that Christ will be ruler. Here we are told that he will be born in Bethlehem. This is quoted by the chief priests and scribes in Matthew 2:6 to Herod but is certainly quoted with indifference. They knew the fact of what the Scripture prophesied, but they were not moved by the information. Herod was jealous and wanted to kill the newborn King.

This next verse is seldom used in the context of the season (except by me for sure) but I believe it to be probably the most important verse. It was written by Paul and is an after-the-fact account of what happened on the so-called “Christmas” morning.

8. Galatians 4:4-5; *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

This is the full truth of what happened at that time. The time was right. God waited until a certain point in time, and God sent forth His son. Christ wasn’t just born; He was sent by God. He was made under the law; He was a Jew. But Paul, remember, was tasked with taking the message to the whole world, which included Gentiles. This was a

gift from God for all the world. This included Gentiles.

And now, consider the passages used at “Christmas” time:

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Matthew 2:1-6
- Luke 2:1-14

These passages all describe what happened at that time. The verses in Matthew tell the story from Joseph’s point of view. Luke tells Mary’s point of view. Both of course reveal information given to them by the angel.

The passage in Luke is quoted in “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” produced in 1965. It is probably my favorite Christmas program. It certainly would not be made today, because of the Scripture reference about Christ that is used.

Merry Christmas!

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<sup>4</sup> Please use the King James Word “everlasting” when referring to Christ. The words used in the NIV, “from ancient times” are incorrect, and do not convey the same meaning. “Ancient times” has a starting point.