

The Five Questions of Christmas

Christmas Settled Our Greatest Question

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Introduction

We are all familiar with the Christmas story of Jesus' birth. The one that God's people were waiting for had finally arrived, and in Him was the hope of all mankind, the gospel, God's salvation message. That gospel, our "good news of great joy," was shared in multiple ways by many people, but it was summarized best by the angel who appeared to the shepherds.

"Do not be afraid," he said, "for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." In one sentence, the angel answered five questions – who, what, when, where, and why.

Who? "Christ the Lord"

Since the first rebellion against God in the Garden of Eden, mankind had been waiting for someone to reverse the curse of the Fall. God promised that a "Chosen Seed" would one day rescue mankind and destroy the works of the devil (*Genesis 3:15*). That Chosen One, of whom the prophets foretold, was Jesus Christ, the Messiah (*1 John 3:8*).

What? "There Has Been Born"

According to the prophecies, the Chosen One had to be a man, born of a woman, born of a virgin, and born under the law. The Chosen One had to be a descendant of Abraham so that He would be a Jew and a descendant of David so that He would be a king. Jesus' birth fulfilled all the requirements. The God of the universe left the splendor of heaven, humbled Himself to a helpless babe and was laid in a lowly manger.

When? "Today"

People had waited for the Promised One for thousands of years. They thought He would never come, but the silence was broken that night with this wonderful announcement. "When the fulness of time came," meaning when the time was right, "God sent forth His Son" (*Galatians 4:4*).

Where? "In the City of David"

At that time in history, the mighty Roman empire ruled the western world, and Caesar Augustus sat on the throne. To calculate the taxes owed to his government, Caesar ordered that a census be taken. His order directed everyone to return to his hometown. As descendants of King David, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, David's hometown, where Jesus was born. The angel told the shepherds that the baby would be there.

Why? "A Savior for You"

What was so glorious about this birth? Why was Jesus' arrival hailed as "good news of great joy"? God, in His mercy and love, sent His Son as the Savior of men. But why did mankind need saving?

When Adam and Eve, our first parents, disobeyed God in the Garden, they brought sin into the world. With sin came many consequences, the worst of which was death, spiritual and physical death. As mankind's first representatives, Adam and Eve passed on the disease of sin to their descendants, which includes us. "Sin entered the world, and death through sin, so death spread to all men, because all sinned" (*Romans 5:12*).

Moreover, we were estranged from God because of sin. But the good news is that God made a way to be right with Him again. Through His Son, Jesus, there is forgiveness. The Christ child would lay down His life to save us from sin and death, to give us salvation and eternal life. This Savior is for all people, including you.

What a glorious occasion! God finally settled our greatest question. The curse is broken! Our Savior is here!

Thank you, God, for Christmas!