

Sermon Notes & References

“Saviour, Messiah, Lord”

Luke 2:11

December 19, 2010

✧ **Introduction**

☆ **fiction and fact^A**

☆ **six marvels of the Nativity^B**

1. 4.

2. 5.

3. 6.

✧ **There Has Been Born ... a Saviour^C**

✧ **There Has Been Born ... Messiah (Christ)**

☆ **as Prophet^D**

☆ **as Priest^E**

☆ **as King^F**

✧ **There Has Been Born ... the Lord**

☆ **LORD ... God of the old covenant^G**

☆ **Lord Jesus ... (the same) God, of the new covenant^H**

✧ **Conclusion**

☆ **truth beyond human comprehension**

✧ **the wonder of the Nativity^I**

^A 2 Corinthians 9:15

^B Mica 5:2, Isa 60:3, Luke 1:8ff, 1:23ff, Matthew 1:18ff, Isaiah 7:4

^C John 8:33, Galatians 4:3-7, Romans 6:17-18

^D 1 Kings 17 & on; Acts 11:28, Micah 6:8, Matthew 24-25, John 16:33, Luke 22:34

^E Leviticus 16, Hebrews 7:26-27, 10:11-14; Luke 2:35

^F John 18:36, Colossians 1:13

^G Numbers 6:24-26

^H Jeremiah 31:31, 1 Corinthians 11:25, Romans 7:12, 8:3

^I Philippians 2:5-7

A. Introduction

1. Christmas brings out many nice 'little miracle' stories
 - a. you will have read them, heard them, seen them enacted
 - (A) e.g. 'Miracle on 34th Street'
 - (B) e.g. 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' (opera, TV)
 - (C) e.g. 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'
 - (D) and, of course, 'Santa Claus'
 - b. however, for the most part, they are fictional
 - c. yet despite the fact that they are false, for most people they seem easier to believe than the real truth
2. the real truth surpasses the capacity of the human mind
 - a. Paul is talking about God's giving Jesus to die for us when he says, "[Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.](#)" (2 Corinthians 9:15 AV)
 - b. unfortunately the meaning of that word 'unspeakable' has changed over the past 400 years
 - c. the Greek word means that there are no words that can be uttered that properly express the greatness of this gift
 - d. so modern translations express it more like this, "[Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!](#)" (2 Corinthians 9:15)
3. "[for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ \(that is, Messiah\) the Lord.](#)" (Luke 2:11)
 - a. consider the marvels and miracles surrounding this birth
 - (A) 1. many centuries prior, God's prophets, foretold it
 - (1) prophecies of hope & promise (as we read in Isaiah)
 - (2) accurate prophecies naming even His birthplace; so the scribes could tell the wise men: Micah 5:2
 - (B) 2. those wise men who came to Herod were
 - (1) students of the stars: astronomers, also astrologers

(2) pagans, but God set a light in the sky to lead them

(3) **"And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."** (Isaiah 60: 3 AV)

(4) they travelled something over a year

(5) they laid their royal gifts before the child-king

(C) 3. the experience of Zechariah (Luke 1:8ff)

(1) appearance of the angel to him in the temple

(2) being struck mute because of unbelief

(3) birth and naming of John, his son

(4) the Baptist, fore-runner of Messiah

(D) 4. & 5. the experience of Mary and Joseph

(1) the angel Gabriel appears to Mary (Luke 1:23ff)

(2) the angel appears to Joseph (Matthew 1:18ff)

(3) the virgin birth, prophecy fulfilled (Isaiah 7:14)

(E) 6. today's reading – the appearance to the shepherds

b. all these events were marvellous, amazing in themselves

4. **"for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ (that is, Messiah) the Lord."** (Luke 2:11)

a. but this news goes beyond amazing and marvellous

b. for this little baby, born of Mary

c. should bear this three-fold name: Saviour, Messiah, Lord

B. There Has Been Born ... a Saviour

1. his very name, Jesus, means **'Yahweh, the Lord, saves'**

a. Jews were in need of salvation; they looked for it

b. the religious rulers denied it – "... **We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; ...**" (John 8:33) – but their denial was hollow sham

c. for 600 years Jews had successively been under the rule of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and now, Rome

2. but they, along with the rest of mankind, were under a much more severe bondage – Let us read Galatians 4:3-7^J
 - a. mankind is still under that bondage today
 - b. in short, slaves to sin – Romans 6:17-18^K

3. This baby Jesus is the Son of Man delivering mankind from sin

- C. There Has Been Born ... Messiah (Christ) – ‘anointed one’ – usually in OT it was used as a definite reference to a person anointed to a specific office – but with Jesus holds a triad of offices
 1. First, he held the office of Prophet
 - a. sometimes a prophet ...
 - (A) fore-tells – announcing what is going to happen, what God is going to do – e.g. Elijah (OT), Agabus (NT)
 - (B) forth-tells – proclaiming the message of God, how God desires that His people live – e.g. Moses, Micah 6:8, “He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?”
 - b. Jesus exercised the office of a prophet
 - (A) sometimes fore-told – Jerusalem’s destruction; future suffering of disciples; of Peter; His return & judgement
 - (B) mainly forth-told – message of the kingdom of God – what God required of man – message of gospel

 2. Second, he held the office of Priest
 - a. in our communion service we read of this from Hebrews
 - (A) a priest identified himself with all the people

^J ³So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:3-7, NAS)

^K ¹⁷But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18, NAS)

- (1) on the annual day of atonement (Leviticus 16)
- (2) put his hands on the one goat (Leviticus 16:21) confessing all the iniquities of the people
- (B) Jesus as priest, had to be truly man, for He was to identify Himself with man on the cross
- b. so Jesus, too, offered up a sacrifice for our sin
 - (A) He was both priest and Sacrifice – [Hebrews 7:26-27](#)^L
 - (B) Jesus, that baby in Bethlehem, was truly born to die
 - (C) Simeon announced this to Mary when she brought in her own sin offering – “[and a sword will pierce even your own soul ...](#)” (Luke 2: 35)
 - (D) God accepted His Sacrifice – [Hebrews 10:11-14](#)^M

3. Third, he held the office of King

- a. Jesus was born to be a King « – next week’s message »
 - (A) sermon on the mount is the manifesto, or declaration of the principles, of His kingdom, the kingdom of God
 - (B) Jesus told Pilate, “[My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.](#)” (John 18:36)
 - (C) His kingdom is one whose citizens enter by faith
- b. it is a spiritual kingdom directly opposed to Satan’s rule, and inhabited by believers: “[For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,](#)” (Colossians 1:13)

4. This baby Jesus is Messiah (Christ): prophet, priest and king

D. There Has Been Born ... the Lord

- 1. when the shepherd heard this title, ‘[the Lord](#)’

^L ²⁶For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;²⁷who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. (Hebrews 7:26-27, NAS)

^M ¹¹Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;¹²but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, [sat down at the right hand of God,](#)¹³waiting from that time onward [until his enemies be made a footstool for his feet.](#)¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:11-14, NAS)

- a. and those to whom they reported the event
 - b. only one thought to each person
 - c. Yahweh, the Lord, is visiting His people Israel
 - d. for many years this name, Yahweh, was never spoken by the Jews except by the high priest at the feasts in blessing the nation of Israel from Numbers 6:24-26: "The Lord bless you, and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace."
 - e. instead of that sacred Name they said the word 'Lord'
 - f. lest in some fashion they should speak the covenant name of the God of Israel in vain, emptily, thoughtlessly
 - g. Yahweh, the Lord, Israel's covenant God was going to dwell with His people as promised: Immanuel, God with us
2. but in the Lord Jesus, God would establish a covenant
- a. even as God had promised (Jeremiah 31:31)
 - b. one superceding the old covenant made with Israel at Sinai
 - c. a new covenant made with every believer at the cross; as we celebrated a few minutes ago: 'this cup is the new covenant in My blood' (1 Corinthians 11:25)
 - d. was the old covenant a mistake? no, for Paul says, "... the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good." (Romans 7:12)
 - (A) as a description of God's holy requirements, perfect
 - (B) as a way of life to those with faith, fulfilling (Ps 119)
 - (C) but, as a way of earning salvation, totally useless
 - (1) not because of any imperfection in the Law
 - (2) but because our old fallen human nature due to sin
 - e. "For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh," (Romans 8:3)
 - f. Jesus, establishing this new covenant with His people, is one and the same with the Yahweh, the Lord who established the old covenant with His people

3. This baby Jesus is God Himself, Immanuel dwelling among men

E. Conclusion – “for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ (that is, Messiah) the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

1. Amazing truth, beyond all human comprehension

a. so amazing that the shepherds immediately went to see

b. so amazing it caused wonder in everyone to whom they related the message of the angels they had heard

c. so amazing that Mary treasured it all up in her memory

2. let us never lose our wonder of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ – that – [Philippians 2:5b-7](#)^N

a. it is by faith that this same Jesus, God the Son, comes and dwells in your heart and mine today – Immanuel

b. let us rejoice again in this fact in our closing hymn

^N ^{5b}... Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, [and] being made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5b-7, NAS)

1. © 2010 by Garth Hutchinson, Faith Fellowship Baptist Church of Aurora (Ontario): may be distributed or quoted freely, only let this be done to the glory “of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). Except as noted otherwise, quotations are from the New American Standard (NAS) version of the Bible, © 1960 ... 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Various other English versions of the Holy Bible may be used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in {braces}. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
ERV	The Revised Version of 1885
NAS	New American Standard version © 1960, 1995 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
NLT	1996 New Living Translation © 1996 by Tyndale Charitable Trust
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Further sermons and illustrations may be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com. Materials in this sermon from Rev. David Holwick's database are identified by “Kerux” followed by a sermon or illustration number.