

God's Ultimate Gift

At this time of year, the world is presented with the humble birth of a majestic Child, however, this Child had pre-existence before being conceived in His mother, Mary's, womb. Very important not to overlook this, for He is "God's Ultimate Gift."

An Angel Comes to Joseph

Matt. 1:18-24 TPT *"This is how Jesus, God's Anointed One, was born. His mother, Mary, had promised Joseph to be His wife, but while she was still a virgin she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit (or "the Sacred Breath (Spirit-wind)" or "the Spirit of Holiness"). 19. Her fiancé, Joseph, was a righteous man full of integrity and he didn't want to disgrace her, but when he learned of her pregnancy he secretly planned to break the engagement (or "divorce her"). 20. While he was still debating with himself about what to do, he fell asleep and had a supernatural dream. An angel from the Lord appeared to him in clear light and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't hesitate to take Mary into your home as your wife, because the power of the Holy Spirit has conceived a child in her womb. 21. She will give birth to a son and you are to name him 'Savior' (or "Jesus". The Hebrew name for Jesus is Yeshua (or Y'hoshua) and means "Yahweh is salvation, restoration, and deliverance."), for He is destined to give His life to save His people from their sins."*

22. *This happened so that what the Lord spoke through His prophet would come true: 23. "Listen! A virgin will be pregnant, she will give birth to a Son, & He will be known as "Emmanuel," which means in Hebrew, "God became one of us (or "God with us" or "God among us"); that is, God incarnated/became flesh." 24. "When Joseph awoke from his dream, he did all that the angel of the Lord instructed him to do. He took Mary to be his*

wife, **25.** But they refrained from having sex until she gave birth to her son, whom they named “Jesus.”

The “Living Expression” Becomes Flesh & Dwells Among Us

John 1:1-5 TPT *“In the very beginning the **Living Expression** (Gk. **logos** = “Word”, “Message”, or “Blueprint”) was already there. And the Living Expression was with God, yet fully God.” **Note:** “Jesus Christ is the eternal Word, the creative Word, and the Word made visible. He is the divine self-expression of all that God is, contains, and reveals in incarnated (bodily) flesh. Just as we express ourselves in words, God has perfectly expressed Himself in Christ.”*

2. They were together – face-to-face, in the very beginning. **3.** And through His creative inspiration this Living Expression made all things, for nothing has existence apart from Him! **4.** Life came into being* because of Him, for His life is light for all humanity.” *Aramaic reads “In Him were lives” (plural) – not only multiple human lives, but also spiritual life, eternal life, and life in every form.”

5. And this Living Expression is the Light that bursts through gloom – the Light that darkness could not diminish (or “that keeps on shining through.”)

9. “For the Light of Truth (Gk. “The True Light”) was about to come into the world and shine upon everyone (or “to enlighten everyone”). **10.** He entered into the very world He created, yet the world [of humanity] was unaware. **11.** He came to the very people He created (or “to His own” [things or people]) – to those who should have recognized Him, but they did not receive Him. **12.** But those who embraced Him and **took hold of His name** (or “those who are putting faith into his name”) were given authority to become children of God. (To “**lay hold of His name**” means to believe all that He represents and put into practice what He taught in the power of His name.”) **13.** He was not born by the joining of human parents or from natural means,

or by a man's desire, but He was born of God (or "born out from God"). **14.** "And so the Living expression became a man and lived among us (**Isa. 7:14** "Immanuel – "God with us" or "God became one of us")! And we gazed upon the splendor of His glory, the glory of the One and Only Who came from the Father overflowing with tender mercy and truth!"

16. "And now out of His fullness we are fulfilled! And from Him we receive grace heaped upon more grace (or "**one gift after another**")." **TPT:** "Every believer receives from the fullness of Christ a divine completeness We are given from Him whatever each requires for the perfection of his character and for the fulfillment of his life's purpose (Eph. 1:23, Col. 1:19; 2:9)."

"The light of Jesus Christ shines in the darkness," **John 1:5 NKJV** says, "and the darkness did not **comprehend** it." That means 1) darkness does not gain control of the light, 2) that darkness is unreceptive and does not understand the light, or 3) that the darkness will never be able to eliminate it. **SFLB** "Light and darkness essentially are antagonistic (or opposed to one another). The Christian's joy is in knowing that light is not only greater than darkness but will also outlast the darkness."

Substitute for "The Light"

Rick Joyner: "Human idealism is at the root of the religious spirit." In other words, **man creates** an ideal concept of what reality is and then designs ideas of how to progress toward that reality. Scripture, however, paints a portrait of **Who reality truly is!** Darkness can't understand this, so Satan perverts truth so that people will create a god to worship in their own image.

For instance, John 1:3 TPT says, "And through His creative inspiration this Living Expression made all things, for nothing has existence apart from Him!" But darkness denies Creation & espouses Evolution lest God get the glory & mankind believe!

Matthew Henry: “Jesus was not a subordinate instrument (in creation), but a coordinate agent, by Whom God made the world (Heb. 1:2 “[God] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds [or “ages”].”), not as the workman cuts by his axe, but as the body sees by the eye. He the Creator was well-qualified for the work of our redemption as our salvation. He was appointed the Author of our bliss Who was the Author of our being!”

Trust Jesus Completely

Heb. 12:2 TPT “We look away from the natural realm and we focus our attention and expectation onto Jesus who birthed faith within us and Who leads us forward into faith’s perfection. His example is this: Because His heart was focused on **the joy of knowing that you would be His***, He endured the agony of the cross and conquered its humiliation, and now sits exalted at the right hand of the throne of God!” ***TPT note:** “This was the joy of our salvation [set before Him]. He placed before His eyes the bliss we would forever share together with Him which empowered Him to go through His agony. Instead of remaining in heaven’s glory with the Father and all the angels, He chose you as the joy set before Him. He desires you to the point of laying down His life and being God for all eternity to be with you. He pursued you, not seeing your weakness and failures, but what you will be. He can see what we will be in the end from the beginning. This was the joy that prompted Him to become a man.” **Imagine that – He chose you and me for all eternity!**

The Revealed Truth found in Christ Jesus is God’s greatest gift to mankind.

That God would reveal Himself to man through His Beloved Son is a phenomenal act of humility, mercy and grace. It is God taking

responsibility for who he created and thus buying us back from the marketplace of sin through His Son's shed blood!

Will you trust Him more today than you ever have before. This week we celebrate His birth. **Will you enter into that**

celebration fully by becoming born again from above by faith in Christ? Don't delay...the time is short...eternity is long...

decide now to repent of your sins, receive Jesus as your Savior, and live as a child of God for the rest of your life by faith & the power of His gracious Holy Spirit & His Word of Truth.