

## More Than a Baby

### The Savior

December 15, 2019 am

HDBC

#### What do you see?



Bottoms of used frying pans



Frost on hood of car

#### Inside of a guitar



**Perception** is not always reality. Sometimes things are not what they appear to be. Sometimes things are **more than** they appear to be. **The size of an iceberg, for example, is not reflected by the amount of ice you see above the water.**

**Our limited** perception sometimes causes us to miss reality. This is not important we're talking about frying pans, frost on cars or the inside of guitars. It is critical if we are talking about Jesus.

**At Christmas** we celebrate His birth and therefore focus on His infancy. This is as it should be. But it brings with it the danger of seeing Jesus only as a baby. He was so much more than a baby. He was . . .

**The Light** who came into a dark world to overcome ignorance and evil.

**The Savior** who came the world to save sinners like you and me.

The fact that Jesus is **the Savior** is confirmed throughout the New Testament by a multitude of people in a variety of situations. He is the Savior for . . .

## 1. **The Unappreciated**      Shepherds

Shepherds were very important in Israel. Sheep were an important part of the economy. In fact, the small flocks of sheep that many owned were the key to their survival. The role of shepherd was important. However, that i did not translate into status. Those who met that important need were considered on the lower end of social standing. They looked down upon by the educated, the politically powerful and the economically advantaged. They were considered unworthy of respect and honor.

**That is why** it was so shocking that the announcement of the birth of the Messiah was first made to a group of shepherds. They were just doing their thing, taking care of sheep, minding their business. When suddenly their world was rocked. The night sky was filled with the glory of God, as an angel of God announced the birth. The message was simple and clear, yet powerful. Listen to heart of their message to the shepherds.

*Today in the city of David there has been born for you a **Savior**, who is Christ, the Lord. Luke 2:11*

**The angel** made it clear that this baby was not just a baby. He was a savior. What does a savior do? He saves! I noticed something else in this statement that I had never noticed even though I've heard it my whole life.

**Note two little words** that would have meant so much to those shepherds. **For you!** Jesus was a savior who had been born specifically **for them**. Though there was a universal aspect to his mission, there was also a personal aspect of it. He came for the world, but he also came for individuals. He was a savior for the Shepherds!

## 2. **The Outsiders**      Samaritans and all non-Jews

This would not only have been shocking to the Jews, but would have been scandalous. For centuries they had believed they were God's chosen people and were the only ones who would benefit from God's blessing. They failed to see that God had called them to be a light to the world. Rather than being used of God to bless the world, they looked at the rest of the world with scorn, believing they were loved by God more than all others. They were extremely selfish and proud. Jesus rocked their world, over and over again.

**Jesus was going** through Samaria and met a woman at a well. He engaged her in a conversation and ultimately revealed to her that he was the Messiah and the only one who could satisfy the deepest needs of her life. What she thirsted for was not water from a well that could satisfy physical thirst, but salvation from God that would satisfy her spiritual thirst for all eternity.

**She came to see** that he was indeed the son of God. She rushed back to her village and began to tell others about Jesus. Her invitation to them was simple, **just come and see . . .** And, they did. Maybe they were curious. Maybe they saw the excitement and conviction in her eyes and heard it in her voice. They came . . . they saw . . . they heard . . . they believed. What they heard transformed their lives. Meeting Jesus will do that.

**They even** asked Jesus to stay in their area and teach them. Jesus stayed two days. Many more believed. Listen to the testimony of these Samaritan villagers as they explained what happened to them.

*And they were saying to the woman, it is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed **the Savior** of the world. John 4:42*

**The Samaritans** were considered by the Jews to be unworthy of God's love and grace. The Samaritan woman was further disgraced because of her lifestyle. Yet, the people and the women were recipients of the grace brought by **the Savior, Jesus!** Jesus came to save the unworthy, the outsiders.

### 3. **The Insiders** Jewish people

The insiders in Jesus' day, were the Jews. If the Samaritans were the outsiders, the Jews were the insiders. They were members of the chosen people. As much as any group of people on the planet could have an inside track to God it would have been the Jews.

**These were the descendants** of Abraham. They had been taught the law of God, practiced the traditions of faith and knew about the promised Messiah. The Word of God was given to them. The Messiah would come through them. They had a rich heritage of faithful prophets, kings and leaders who demonstrated what it meant to follow God.

**They were** the insiders, but they still needed a savior. Listen to Paul's words as he spoke with Jewish people in the synagogue in Antioch during his first missionary journey.

*From the descendants of this man (David), according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus. Acts 13:23*

**These people** thought they had an inside track to be right with God, but Paul made it clear that they still needed a savior. They had a rich heritage of religious instruction and practice, but they needed a savior. Listen, you are blessed if you have a history of being taught about God and of even learning to worship God, but you still need a savior.

**Jesus came** to be the savior of the insiders; those who may think they are right with God because of their religious heritage or affiliation. You are no more saved because of your spiritual heritage than an outsider is. You still need a personal savior. Jesus came to save the insiders. You may consider yourself to be religious, an insider. You still need a savior!

#### 4. **The Powerful** Religious leaders

There were some in Jesus day, as there are today, who have so much power that they feel no need for a savior. In Jesus day and in the generation that followed one particular power group included the religious leaders in Jerusalem. They thought their power and position earned them right standing with God. Not only did they reject Jesus as their savior, they tried to stop the movement that was resulting in other people trusting in Jesus.

**They used** a number of tactics to do so. Their initial attempt had failed. They thought that by killing Jesus they could put an end to what they considered a nuisance at best and a dangerous movement at worst. But this backfired. Not only did it not end the movement, with reports of Jesus' resurrection it actually empowered it.

**People were not** only turning to Jesus and away from the old religion which they controlled, but they were aggressively leading others to do so. They tried arresting the leaders. When this did not work they tried beating them. When this did not work they even tried killing them. Nothing worked.

**It was in this context** that Peter made an important statement about Jesus' role as savior. It is found in Acts 5. Peter and other leaders had been arrested. During the night, an angel was sent from God to free them from the jail. The next day they returned to the temple area and continued to preach the gospel. The religious leaders again arrested and questioned them. **They reminded** them that they had been forbidden to talk about Jesus.

**The apostles** boldly responded, *we must obey God rather than man*. Peter continued to explain, *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince **and a Savior**, to grant repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins*. Acts 5:30-31

**These were men of power** that Peter was talking to. Yet, they needed a savior. Peter made it clear that Jesus was a Savior for them, as well. It was his way of informing them that they too, needed a savior. Their religion would not save them. Their power would not save them. Their status and prestige would not save them. They needed a savior and that savior was Jesus.

Jesus is the savior for the . . . Unappreciated, the Outsiders, the Insiders, the Powerful. And just to make sure no one is left out, John tells us that Jesus is savior for the whole world.

## 5. The World

*We have seen and testify that the Father as sent the Son to be **the Savior of the world***. 1 John 4:14

**No one** is excluding from the saving power of Jesus. The saving power of Jesus is offered to all, to everyone. Jesus is able to save all who will trust Him. You are not excluded. Jesus came to save you.

**In this short statement** I note some important things:

### 1) The Nature of Jesus

*His Son*. Jesus is the son of God. He is divine. He is not simply another man. He is different. He is God taking on humanity. Not simply God looking human, but God becoming human.

## 2) **The Submission of Jesus**

Sent by the father. He yielded to the Father's plan, willingly.

## 3) **The Purpose of Jesus**

His purpose is once again, clearly stated. He came to be a savior.

## 4) **The Grace of Jesus**

Savior of the world. Same world that rejected, scorned, beat and killed him. Same world that arrested, tortured and killed his followers. Yet, he offers salvation to them.

## 5) **The Confirmation about Jesus**

John wrote, *We have seen and testify*. They witnessed it personally. They can confirm the truth that Jesus is the Savior. How do we know that Jesus is the son of God? It ultimately will be a faith decision for each person. But one of the great evidences is found in what the eye witnesses believed. It changed their lives.

**He's more than a baby. He is the Savior.**

### **Takeaways:**

1. The father and the son willingly participated in the incarnation  
The father sent and the son went!
2. Jesus has finished the necessary work as Savior  
His life, death, burial and resurrection completed his mission.
3. All that remains is for individuals to act on this truth  
Note verse 15.

***Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.***