

"I think that was a Christmas song.

I do. And I'll tell you why.

After you, after Christmas, everybody's gonna be saying, what did you get for Christmas? If you can tell them, I got Jesus. Half of them ain't gonna understand it, that'll give you a chance to explain to them.

And the half that do understand it, they're gonna hug your neck and say, man, best gift you ever got.

Amen?

Amen.

All right.

Okay. They sang all around my messages, you know. That song that Angie did, the baby changes everything.

That is the message of this one. I heard a line in a song last week, and basically it made me think about some things, made me look for some things, made me try to find some things. And I'm gonna ask the question, and I'm gonna give you the reasons I believe.

I'm gonna try to back them up with scripture.

But the question is, why a baby?

Why did Jesus come to this earth as a baby?

Why a baby?"

"One more time, we're gonna read part of the Christmas story, Luke chapter 2. We're gonna read the first 14 verses in the second chapter of Luke.

I want you to hear, I know you've heard this many, many times, but I want you to hear it this morning.

I want you to hear what it says.

I want you to feel what it means, okay?

And it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

And the taxing was first made when Cyrenaus was governor of Syria.

And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea under the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David. You have no idea how important that is to know that because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David, Jesus was of the lineage of David, which was nothing more than God fulfilling a promise that he made to David, that his lineage would be ruled over all of history."

“Okay?

To be taxed was Mary having a spouse life, being great with child. And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shown round about them, and they were so afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a state which is Christ the Lord. And this should be a sign unto you, ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill.

Amen.

Yes, amen”

“Jesus was the promised Messiah. He had been prophesied and promised for hundreds of years prior to his birth. He could have come into the world in many, many ways, in common sense ways, we think.

But yet, he chose to enter this world as a baby.

He could have come as a full-grown man and just suddenly appeared.

But he didn't.

He could have come as a king, which he was, or a great ruler, which he is.

But he didn't.

The same heavenly host that announced his birth could have made known a grown man showing up as the Messiah. All of these things could have happened.

But God chose to send his son as a baby.

And real quick, I'm going to give you three or four reasons here that I believe Jesus came as a baby.

The first one is, everybody loves babies.

They do. They do.

Everybody loves babies.

You love to hold them.

You love their little fingers and their little toes.

You do.

We love that stuff. You know, everybody loves babies.

A baby, a new baby, yes, it comes with its challenges, but man, it brings a lot of joy and happiness.

"I don't know whether...

Every time someone in our church family has a new baby, we bring it up here to let you all see it, to introduce you to the newest member of our church family.

Okay?

They do.

And I've watched y'all.

You see a new baby, and you... And you, ah, and oh, and...

You talk to babies like you talk to nobody else.

You understand that?

You know?

And if the people at work could hear you, well, you don't want them to hear you talking like that.

You know?

You do things to babies, you know? Everybody loves a baby.

You know why?

Because babies...

Babies are pure. Babies are stemless.

Babies are not caught up in all the complicated things of the world.

Babies, Jesus came as a baby, are not a threat.

The baby was sweet.

Now, Jesus came as a baby to very, very humble beginnings and very, very humble surroundings.

And he could have come, meaning that there was no royal celebration, even though he was a newborn baby. There was a, I mean, he was born and laid in a manger, which a manger is nothing more than a feeding trough.

"For animals.

Nothing royal, nothing glorious, nothing splendid about it. He came with no political status whatsoever. He came with no public celebration whatsoever.

But his beginning was on purpose. He set the tone for his entire ministry.

He had a ministry of loving people and serving other people.

That was his ministry.

It was not a ministry of power or authority or wealth.

It was a ministry of service and a ministry of love.

So the first thing, everybody loves a baby.

All right.

Second thing, he was born a baby to fulfill prophecy.

The last three weeks, I've talked about how in the book of Micah, it was...

I'm off.

Dion, turn me back on.

Come on.

Come on now.

Yeah, okay. That's the first time I've ever been told I'm off.

Okay.

I'm not gonna start over, okay?

Y'all just watch it.

Watch the video later on and you can get it. Michael prophesied he'd be born in Bethlehem.

You recall us talking about that last couple of weeks? So he fulfilled that prophecy.

Thank you, Tabitha.

I thought she was just glad to see me.

She was waving. You know?"

"It was prophesied where he would be born in Bethlehem. And we've talked about how that Bethlehem was the least among the places, the most unlikely place for him to be born. But yet, it was the perfect place if you study it out.

It was the perfect place. But I want to read you some scripture from the book of Isaiah. This is the ninth chapter of Isaiah.

And this was written, according to Bible scholars, anywhere from seven to eight hundred years before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah said this, For unto us a child is born. For unto us a child is born.

For unto us a son is given, and the government shall be up on 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, remember I just told you, it mattered that he was of the house and lineage of David, because God fulfilled a promise to David about his lineage.”

“You're right here. Upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even forever, the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.

It's to fulfill prophecy.

It was to help us understand that God's prophecies are all true, and every one of those has come to pass other than the return of Jesus Christ, and it's not if it will come to pass, it's when will it come to pass, because it is going to happen. That's the latest prophecy. It was to give us the fact that God's promises are all true, that God's Word is faithful.

We don't have to question it. We don't have to wonder about it. God's Word is faithful.

And this last point I love, the fact that history confirms God's prophecy, and confirms God's Word. They prophesied in Micah, he'd be born in Bethlehem. History records he was born in Bethlehem.

All right?”

“A coming Messiah, history records there was a man named Jesus. They may or may not acknowledge he was the Messiah, but they acknowledge that he did great special works like they'd never seen before.

History records that.

And history has confirmed that God's promises are true, the fulfillment of prophecy.

All right, the third point.

Why was he a baby?

So that he might grow up and live exactly like you and I.

That was it.

To be God is human.

It's human emotion.

To experience every emotion that we experience.

Early childhood.

Childhood.

We don't hear a whole lot about that, but it happened.

He wasn't born in Bethlehem, and then two weeks later, he's in Jerusalem as an adult.

He grew up just like each and every one of us have grown up.

He had childhood memories. He had all of those things.

Childhood. He was a teenager.”

“You know, I was told many, many years ago that when you get more mature in life, you know, I don't say hold, but more mature in life, you will remember things as a teen more than any other point in life. And it's true.

I can't remember last week, but I can remember my teenage years, good, bad, and otherwise, you know.

Jesus had those memories as a teenager, as a young adult, and then as a grown man. He had all those things that he felt. He lived as a human so that we might be able to better relate to him, to understand and to know.

He understands us. Yes, we are his creation, but he understands how we feel. And the devil will tell you, well, don't nobody understand what you're going through.

And you will buy into that lie that nobody understands. I'm telling you, he understands, because he's been there. He knows what it is to love.

He knows what it is to suffer loss. He knows what it is to have good friends, people he can count on.”

“He knew all of this stuff. He did not just set up on his high throne in heaven and observe us.

He lived among us, like us. And the Bible confirms that. Let me read to you from the Book of Hebrews, the second chapter, verses 17 and 18.

It says, Wherefore, in all things, it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, us, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people, to be the intermediary between us and God. For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he's able to secure them that are tempted. He knows what temptation was.

The devil took him up on high and tempted him in different ways. He understands it. Hebrews 4, 14-16.

Now, I'm going to read this from the New Living Translation. It says, So then, since we have a great high priest who has entered into heaven, Jesus, the son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This high priest of ours understands our weakness.

I substituted my weakness in there.

He understands my weakness.”

“For he faced all of the same testing we do.

Yet, he did not sin.

So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There, we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help when we need it most.

He took on human form so that we might understand. We have somebody that knows us better than we know ourselves.

He knows what we can do. He knows what we can't do.

And he will advise you accordingly if you're willing to listen. He will be the strength for you.

He will be the encouragement for you.

He will do that.

And last but not least, he seems to be showing us that salvation is by grace and not by our own efforts or our own works.

A baby?

Now, you as parents and you as grandparents, we don't know why we do this stuff, but we do it.

When that baby gets a few months old, you know, it starts crawling.

Whoo!"

"Thank you, Jesus, my baby crawling.

And then you want him to start walking. Oh, and then he starts walking, and then you want him to quit walking, because he's everywhere he's not supposed to be. And we teach them to talk, right?

Yeah. We want them to say, you know, Mommy, Daddy, and Poppa, and Grammy, and then they start talking.

And they never stop.

Am I right? Yes.

Yes. Yes.

These babies can't do anything on their own. They're caught these things.

We teach them.

You know, one of the most important things we teach babies, we teach them how to love.

Do you know how to do that? By loving them.

By loving you.

Literally, the definition of love at first sight for moms and dads is the birth of that child.

That's love at first sight.

You loved them before you even saw them.

Then they're born, and oh my gosh.

That baby is taught to love us by us loving it.

Is that not how Jesus is?

We are taught to love other people by Him loving us.

We are taught to have the love of God for other people by His love loving us"

"Loving us when we were unlovable.

Loving us while we were unreachable. Jesus came to earth as a baby because it was the perfect way to come to earth. He came to teach us all of these things and even more, that a guy not listening.

Why are they?

Because it was the perfect way to get to this world for us.

I'm not saying it was the perfect way for him.

I'm telling you, he did it for us.

So, when they ask you this year, what did you get for this year?

You can say, oh, I got too much. And there's nothing better.

You can say, man, I just, I got a little closer to teaching.

There's nothing better. You can't get too close.

The devil will tell you, you got enough.

You can't get too much.

You can't get too much.

Except you, you got all you want.

Greg, you got a song?

I'm gonna ask you to stand with me."