

Pastor John Miller

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Title: What Child Is This?

Purpose: Answer the question about baby Jesus, “What child is this?”, and provoke people to believe and follow Him.

Truth for Today: Jesus Christ’s supernatural birth was predicted by ancient prophets. He was born as God in flesh, to save us from our sins and offer us eternal life if we believe and follow Him.

Topic: Christmas, Birth of Christ, Prophecy, Virgin Birth

Text: Luke 2:1-14

## What Child Is This?

### I. Introduction

- A. Today we celebrate the birth of a baby, born 2000 years ago, on the other side of the world. Time is divided by His birth, B.C. and A.D. His birth is the most important in history because He was born to be the Savior of the world offering forgiveness of sins so we could have eternal life. Even the agnostic must realize there is something special about this baby. Today we’ll answer the question, “What Child is This?”

### II. Title: What Child is This?

- A. [Luke 2:1–7 (NLT)]...the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire...All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem...<sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available...]
1. On the surface nothing seems special about His birth, but nothing could be further from the truth. We’ll see when we answer the question, “what child is this?”
- B. #1 This child’s birth and birthplace was predicted by the prophet Micah 700 years before His birth. [Micah 5:2 (NKJV)] “But you, **Bethlehem**...*Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me **The One** to be **Ruler in Israel**, Whose goings forth are...**From everlasting**.”] God would direct the Roman emperor, the most powerful man on earth, to unknowingly fulfill His plan.
- C. #2 This Child’s birth, the Son of God, was supernatural. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, [Mt. 1:23 (ESV)] ...**the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).**] This child was God incarnate, i.e. the HS came upon the virgin Mary and God came to earth as a human being.
- D. #3 This Child would offer salvation and eternal life to all of us. An angel to shepherds, [10...“I bring you **good news** that will bring **great joy to all people**. <sup>11</sup> **The Savior**—yes, **the Messiah** (*God’s anointed one*), **the Lord**—has been born today in Bethlehem...] This child was born to die on a cross to pay the penalty of our sin. He offers forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life to all who believe and follow Him.

### III. Conclusion: No one answers the question, “What child is this” better than the prophet Isaiah.

- A. [Isaiah 9:6–7 (NLT)] For a **child is born** to us, a son is given to us...And he will be called: **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace**. <sup>7</sup>

His **government** and its **peace** will never end. He will rule...for **all eternity**...]

History declares His birth. The Bible tells us who He was and why He came.

IV. Response: The question for us is will we respond to His offer of salvation? How? Believe what the Bible says about Jesus and make a commitment to follow Him. Do it now.

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

VI. Supplemental material

A. Matthew 1:23 (NLT) “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

B. Vs. 6 He was not born in the finest hotel and received by royalty. He was born in an animal stall. This child would show us the true path to greatness, humility and serving others.

1. Philippians 2:5–11 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. <sup>6</sup> Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. <sup>7</sup> Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

C. Child who would give us what we can’t give ourselves: forgiveness for sin, eternal life

Joy when we feel despair

Strength when we feel weak

Hope when we feel hopeless

Power to change what’s broken in our lives

A listening ear whenever we want to talk in prayer

This child is called in Scripture King of Kings, Is wonderful, alpha omega, bread of life etc.