

The Miracle of the Christ Child

Philippians 2:1-11

1. His life before Bethlehem.

- a. He existed in the form of God. the nature or character of something, with emphasis upon both the internal and external form—‘nature, character.’ **Show diagram**
- b. He was equal with God. John 5:18, the Jewish leaders knew what he was teaching, that he was, in all ways, equal with God.

Revelation 4:1-11, imagine the wonder of the scene surrounding the throne of God. Heaven is active, lots going on, the angels over every earthly power reporting in to the Lord, angels singing his praises, beauty everywhere you looked and all for the sake of worshiping the Lord on his throne. This is where Jesus lived, the heartbeat of all that has been created.

2. The miracle of his birth.

- a. He emptied himself. 1 Cor. 1:17; To divest oneself of position. Kenosis is the voluntary self-humbling of the eternal Son, whereby He did not cease to be what He was (God), but assumed what He was not (true humanity), choosing not to exercise His divine privileges independently, in order to accomplish redemption. He relinquished status and privilege not essence.
- b. He was made in the likeness of men. How did he empty himself? Three participial phrases. Taking the form of a servant, Being born in the likeness of men, Humbling Himself unto death. He chose to live as a true man, dependent on: The Father’s will, The Spirit’s empowerment, Human limitations (hunger, fatigue, suffering). **Show pic of comparison of King and Baby.** Jesus was truly God and truly man. Hypostatic Union.

3. His life after Bethlehem.

- a. He was a bond-servant. He gave up the form or privilege of being the Son of God and took upon himself the form of a bondservant, one who was a slave to another entity required to follow the demands of a master. John 13:12-17, Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father, he served those the Father brought to him.
- b. He was obedient to death on the cross. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Isa 53:3-6 The Lord died our death, took the wrath of the Father for our sin upon himself. Imagine, going from the throne, to the cradle, to his journey, to the cross. Certainly we should be celebrating Christmas for it was God coming to the earth. Therefore...