

[Matthew 1:18-25]

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by [the power of] the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ And Joseph her [promised] husband, being a just and righteous man and not wanting to expose her publicly to shame, planned to send her away and divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins.

²² All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet [Isaiah]:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel"—which, when translated, means, "God with us.

²⁴ Then Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and he took Mary [to his home] as his wife,

²⁵ but he kept her a virgin until she had given birth to a Son [her firstborn child]; and he named Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation)." Amp

(Ps. 95:1-7), "O come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before His presence with a song of thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with songs.

³For the Lord is a great God And a great King above all gods,

⁴In whose hand are the depths of the earth; The peaks of the mountains are His also.

⁵The sea is His, for He made it [by His command]; And His hands formed the dry land.

⁶O come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker [in reverent praise and prayer]....

⁷For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand." Amp

THE PRIORITY OF CHRISTMAS – OUR WORSHIP OF THE SAVIOR

I. A NECESSARY GIFT

The birth we celebrate – The greatest gift that has ever been given, and it is a gift we all need!

(Mat. 1:21), "She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins." Amp

II. CELEBRATE THE "WHO" OF CHRISTMAS

(Is. 9:2, 6), "The people who walk in [spiritual] darkness Will see a great Light; Those who live in the dark land, The Light will shine on them.....

⁶For to us a Child shall be born, to us a Son shall be given; And the government shall be upon His shoulder, And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." AMP

(Jn. 3:16,17), ¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge and condemn the world [that is, to initiate the final judgment of the world], but that the world might be saved through Him." Amp

III. The Why of The Celebration: "WORSHIP MATTERS" (Ps. 95:6,7)

(Ps. 95:6,7), 6O come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker [in reverent praise and prayer]. 7For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." Amp

(Matthew 1:21)

²¹ She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The Lord is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins." Amp

(Matthew 2:10-12), 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And after entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, after opening their treasure chests, they presented to Him gifts [fit for a king, gifts] of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Amp

Why we worship and why it matters:

- A. God is worthy of praise and worship
 - He has committed to love you unconditionally
 - Worship of God is meant to be at the center of our lives.
 - B. True Worship does something in us:
 - Helps us fulfill our life purpose
 - True Worship brings with it a new perspective

Christmas helps us to rethink our worship of Christ,

- His coming into the world, and
- His soon return.

The more we worship, the better we get to know Him. The more we know Him, the deeper our relationship becomes and the greater our desire to please Him.

"Yes Lord, we greet Thee - Born this happy morning... Jesus to Thee be all glory giving... Word of the Father - Now in flesh appearing... O come let us adore Him...O come let us adore Him... O come let us adore Him... Christ, the Lord."

