

# Offering Worship to God

- Cain's countenance was beaming. He had devised a way to worship God that was different.
- What God did ask for Abel had offered by faith.
- *By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. Heb 11:4*
- *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Rom 10:17*
- Cain's worship was not by faith. He did not listen.

# Jesus was Forceful

- *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24*
- *Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. Jn 17:17*
- If it is not in the word of God it is not truth and God is not seeking it.
- Abel is still speaking – offer your worship by faith that comes by hearing God's word.

# God Must Ask First

- *Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."* Mt 15:7-9
- If it is not in the Scriptures, we are drawing near with our mouth but our worship is vain if it is only found as a command or doctrine of man.
- Jesus calls such worship hypocrisy.
- This creates the dilemma of Christmas

# Christmas

- Before I became a Christian, I celebrated Christmas as both a national holiday and Jesus birth.
- There is not a single thing that is celebrated on this day that is wrong.
- It is a day of giving, kindness, generosity etc.
- Remembering that God sent Jesus into the world.
- But like Cain, it is not in the Bible.
- God never asked for it.
- The church never celebrated or remembered it.
- It came into being in the Roman Catholic church in 360 AD.

# The Gospel is not the Birth... the Death

- *Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures 1Cor 15:1-4*
- The gospel is the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. No mention of the birth.

# Jesus asked us to remember His Death

- *the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**" 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**" 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. 1 Cor 11:23-27 See also Mt. 26:26-29; Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 24:17-20*

# Never the Birth... Always the Death

- There is not one reference to His death after the church began to worship and honor God.
- *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Gal 6:14*
- *And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Phil 2:8*

# What About the Birth?

- What did God say about the Birth?
- The whole world is focused on the birth.
- What are the facts?
- How much do we have in the Bible?



# God's Entire Testimony of Jesus' Birth

**God told as much about John's birth as Jesus'**

- 1. Gabriel sent to Zacharias Lk 1:1-23**
- 2. Gabriel Sent to Mary Lk 1:26-38**
- 3. Mary Visits Elizabeth. Lk 1:39-56**
- 4. Birth of John. Lk 1:57-80**
- 5. Joseph told in a dream. Mt 1:18-25**
- 6. Jesus birth in Bethlehem Lk 1:1-7**
- 7. Angels announce to shepherds Lk 2:8-20**
- 8. Jesus brought to temple. Lk 2:21-39**
- 9. Visit of the wise men. Mt 2:1-12**

# Reason Jesus was In Bethlehem

- *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, 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 of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2*

# Reason Jesus was In Bethlehem

- *And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. Lk 2:*

# Everything we know about His Birth

- *6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and **wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there **was no room for them in the inn.*****

Lk. 2:6-7

- These are the two facts God gave us about Jesus' birth. Nothing else in Matthew, Mark, or John. Nothing in Acts or any of the letters.
- Just these two verses: Wrapped in swaddling clothes; laid in a manger
- Everything else we know is Myth and Legend

# The Announcement to Shepherds

- *Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: **You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.**" Luke 2:8-12*
- Same two facts we already knew

# The Signs Given to the Shepherds

- *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."*

# The Shepherds Went to See

- *And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. Luke 2:13-19*

# After Jesus was Born

- *Now **after Jesus was born in Bethlehem** of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men from the East** came to **Jerusalem**, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Matt 2:1-2*



# The Wise Men Enter the House

- *When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. 11 **And when they had come into the house,** they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Mt 2:9-11*
- While these are important facts about the birth of Jesus they are never mentioned again in the Scriptures.

# The Death or the Birth

- Both God and Jesus want us to focus on the death. The atoning death of Jesus.
- Many chapters on details.
- Commanded to remember every 1<sup>st</sup> day.
- Focus is atonement for our SINS
- The true reason for Jesus death is to save us from our sins.
- *And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus , for He will save His people from their sins." Matt 1:21*

# Birth or Death?

- While the word focuses on His birth God has revealed we must focus on His death
- Over the years I have learned that
  - Dec 25 is not the day on which Jesus was born.
  - The NT only mentions a few details of His birth.
  - John and Mark do not even mention any details of birth
  - Luke gives a few details in the second chapter.
  - Matthew gives a few details in the second chapter
  - The birth of Jesus or the holiday of Christmas It is never mentioned again.
  - The first time Christmas was celebrated was in the Roman Catholic church in 360 AD

# Death or Birth

- Death is somber filled with responsibilities and obligations.
- Birth is festive and exciting with no responsibilities.