

**What in the World is Right With Christmas?
Gal 4:4-7; Matt 1:1-17**

I. Introduction: Another year of Attacks on Christmas...

A. Atheists: Signs / mangers

B. Workplace

1. Holiday Greetings
2. Christmas Pin

C. Schools

1. Xmas played canceled for Muslim event
2. No more Carols...

II. Focus Principle

A. What excites you - time, energy, emotions = your focus

B. What is World's Focus? Excites World?

1. Gifts / Family
2. NOT God (Rom 1:18-23)

Ro 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

C. What is Christian Focus Excites Christians?

1. Gift: God's Gift of His Son
2. Family: Being Part of God's Family

D. What in the World is RIGHT with XMAS? SIX Exciting Facts that Make Christmas RIGHT in the World!

Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

1. SIX Exciting Facts that Make Christmas RIGHT in the World!
 - a) Person of this Birth
 - b) Time of this Birth
 - c) Method of this Birth
 - d) Purposes of this Birth
 - e) Results of this Birth
 - f) Sovereignty of this Birth

III. Person of this Birth

God sent forth His Son

A. "sent forth" = Out of + From + Sent on a Mission

B. His Son

1. Eternally God

a) John 1 Genealogy from God

Jn 1: 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

b) Col 1

(1) Col 1:13 Image of God

(2) Col 1:19, 2:9 Deity of God

(3) Col 1:16-23 Power of God

2. Incarnate

a) "In Flesh" (Latin)

b) Matt 1 / Luke 3 Genealogies

c) John 1:14 Word Became flesh and dwelt among us

d) Ro 1:3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh.

3. Royal

a) Matt 1:1-17 Royal Line through David

4. Unique

Heb 1: 1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

a) Heb 1:2 "In Son" NOT "In His Son" = UNIQUE / ONLY son

5. Humiliated / Obedient

Php 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

6. Perfect, Sinless

Ro 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as *an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

Heb 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

7. Returning

Ac 1:11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

- a) 1 Thes 4:13-18
- b) Matt 24
- c) Book of Revelation OF JESUS CHRIST!

IV. Time of this Birth

Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came

A. Drink Cup - FULL to brim - can't hold ONE MORE DROP? = FULLNESS here!

B. Theologically = EXACT, RIGHT TIME according to God's Plan

- 1. ALL Prophecies fulfilled
- 2. ALL people / places / events according to plan

V. Method of this Birth

born of a woman, born under the Law

A. = FULLY Human

B. = FULLY under the Law to SATISFY the Law to BE acceptable Unblemished Lamb Sacrifice

- 1. Circumcised
- 2. Worshipped / went to feast / made sacrifices
- 3. Kept Sabbath
- 4. Kept ENTIRE LAW! without SIN

VI. Purposes of this Birth

5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons

A. 2 Purposes

- 1. so that He might Redeem those under the Law
- 2. that we might receive adoption as Sons

B. Redeem

1. Buy Back out of Slavery to Sin - for a price
2. who needs Redemption?
 - a) A: "those who were under the Law"
 - b) Who is "[under the Law](#)"? A: ALL unsaved!

C. Receive adoption as Sons

1. Our Salvation with focus on Sonship!
2. Adoption = Compound word: Son + process of Placing
3. Key Verses:

Jn 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Ro 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

VII. Results of this Birth

6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

A. 3 Results

1. Indwelling H/S

Eph 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.
2. Heir of God

Ro 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.
3. Personal Relationship with God
 - a) "[Abba, Father](#)" = Papa, Father! = intimate, personal relationship/family term

VIII. Sovereignty of this Birth

A. Who did ALL the Action?

1. Sending? GOD
2. Redeeming? GOD
3. Sending H/S? GOD
4. Giving Sonship / heir? GOD

B. Who determined the "fullness of Time"? GOD

C. Who Determined ALL aspects of this Birth? GOD - THROUGHOUT ALL HISTORY!

D. Sovereignty of God in the Genealogy of Christ

Mt 1: 1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: **2** Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. **3** Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. **4** Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. **5** Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. **6** Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. **7** Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa. **8** Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah. **9** Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. **10** Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah. **11** Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. **12** After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor. **14** Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud. **15** Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. **16** Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. **17** So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

E. General Overview

1. Focus on David – Mentioned twice in 42 names (per v.17)
2. So focused David mentioned BEFORE Abraham in V.1!!!
3. V.17 shows outline:
 - a) Abraham to David (mostly Prophets) (to Kingship)
 - b) David to Babylon (mostly Kings) (to loss of Kingship)
 - c) Babylon to Messiah (mostly Priests) (to regaining Kingship)

F. SO – why call this section the “Soveriegnty of this Birth”

Ro 9:9 For this is the word of promise: “AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.” **10** And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac; **11** for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not

done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, **12** it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." **13** Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." **14** What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! **15** For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION." **16** So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

1. Who's Sovereign? GOD!
2. Key: V.16 It does NOT depend on the man who wills or the man who runs but on God who has mercy!
3. 2nd Key: v. 12 ...The older will serve the younger
 - a) Who had right of inheritance in ancient cultures? 1st Son
 - b) Does God stick to that? NO

G. Let's see the Sovereignty of God in Matthew's Genealogy!

H. Abraham

Ge 11:26 Terah lived seventy years, and became the father of Abram, Nahor and Haran. ... **32** The days of Terah were two hundred and five years; and Terah died in Haran. [Math: 205-70=135 = age of oldest son per v.26] **1** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; **2** And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; **3** And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." **4** So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran [Abram 75 when Terah died at age 205, therefore NOT oldest son!]

1. SO, Did God choose the Oldest? NO!
2. He sovereignly chose Abraham.

I. Isaac: Matt 1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac

1. Who's older? Ishmael or Isaac?
 - a) Ge 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.
 - b) Ge 21:5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
2. Who did Abraham want God to choose?

Ge 17:16 "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother of nations*; kings of peoples will come from her." **17** Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear *a child*?" **18** And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" **19** But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his

name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

- a) Abraham LAUGHED when God told him! (“Isaac” means laughter)
- b) V.17 – Make Ishmael Your choice!
- c) V.18 NO, I choose Isaac!

J. Jacob - Isaac’s Son: Matt 1:2... Isaac the father of Jacob

- 1. Who was the FIRST BORN? ESAU!
- 2. Starting to see a pattern here? ☺
- 3. What name was Jacob known by? “Jacob the Deceiver!”
 - a) Remember the stripped sheep story with his Uncle Laban? BL: He deceived him.(Gen 30)

K. Judah: Matt 1:2 Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

- 1. Not only NOT #1, was #4 and born of the lesser wife, Leah!
- 2. Who is Sovereign? GOD
- 3. Who’s genealogy are we talking about? CHRIST’S!

L. Perez Matt 1:3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron

- 1. First, Judah had three sons by his wife, Shua! (Gen 38:2-5)
- 2. So, who’s Tamar? We’ll get to that
- 3. Look at the Sons – Perez and Zerah. Notice – Perez is the line that follows. So, who’s first born? Yep. Zerah

Ge 38:27 It came about at the time she was giving birth, that behold, there were twins in her womb. **28** Moreover, it took place while she was giving birth, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet *thread* on his hand, saying, “This one came out first.” **29** But it came about as he drew back his hand, that behold, his brother came out. Then she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!” So he was named Perez. **30** Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet *thread* on his hand; and he was named Zerah.

- a) “Perez” means “breach” / “Zerah” means “brightness”
- b) Christ has a “breach” in His lineage!

M. How many more do you need to see?

- 1. David was the least of ALL Jesse’s sons (1 Sam16)
- 2. Solomon
 - a) Born of Bathesheba – relationship started by adultery
 - b) First son taken by God – So, Solomon NOT first (2Sam 12)

N. What’s the POINT?

- 1. GOD is SOVEREIGN – ALL I’ve listed are NOT first sons
- 2. ALL are sinners! MANY SINS named among theme
 - a) Murders / Adulterers (David)
 - b) Liars (Abraham)

- c) Deceivers (Jacob)
 - d) Distrusting God (Abraham)
3. How did Paul say it?

1 Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. **26** For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; **27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, **28** and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, **29** so that no man may boast before God. **30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, **31** so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

O. NOW – you women! Not to let you off the hook here!

1. Tamar – Gen 38 - Wife of Judah's son Er.
 - a) Long story – BUT She disguises herself as prostitute -gets pregnant by Judah!
 - b) Has TWINS – guess who? Perez and Zerah!
2. Rahab – was the Harlot of Jericho
3. Ruth – a Moabite - twice in OT God says NO Moabite will stand in my Temple (didn't help Israel so God judged them)
4. Bathsheba – adulterous!

IX. What's RIGHT with Christmas?

A. God is SOVEREIGN -God does things in HIS TIME, HIS WAY

B. BECAUSE of this BIRTH

1. We are no longer UNDER THE LAW – we're REDEEMED!
2. No longer Slaves – We're redeemed!
3. We are SONS, HEIRS
4. We have Personal Relationship with GOD – ABBA Father!
5. We have the HOLY Spirit – indwelt and our guarantee
6. And, finally, don't live a defeated life! Don't be depressed, discouraged, sad! Why?

1 Co 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ... **29** so that no man may boast before God. **30** But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, **31** so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."

 - a) God breaks ALL the rules of Men in His Sovereignty
 - b) He uses us weak, sinful, 2nd sons!
 - c) His OWN SON came from a line of scumbags!
7. Get excited about Christmas for the RIGHT reason and let God use you as He has MANY before you!