



The Crime of Christmas

Fact or Fiction: Jesus is the Messiah?

The Messiah Revealed in the Incarnation!

God was born in the flesh (*John 1:14*) is the most important truth regarding the incarnation—the second is that He was the promised Messiah that will take away the sins of the world!

The witness of the incarnation...

A. The Witness of the Angel of the Lord

The angel is Gabriel see 1:19

1. To Zacharias *Luke 1:17* The son of Zacharias would fulfill the prophecy of Mal 4:6. John the Baptist would ‘make ready’ the people to receive the Messiah. John would ‘go before him’ — “Jehovah in the flesh of the Messiah.” [Calvin]

The ‘spirit and power’ was not a power to work miracles but to ‘turn’ hearts. Oh that we would have this power!!

2. To Mary *Luke 1:31-33; Isa 7:14; 9:6* Gabriel makes it clear that this child will be the Messiah—His kingdom will have no end—but the incarnation is the seed of His present-future kingdom.

If you believe in Christ—according to John 14:17 the Spirit of truth lives in you. An incarnation of sorts—His kingdom reign in your heart.

B. The Witness of Zacharias *Luke 1:68-79*

1. Horn of salvation: *1:69* means “strength of salvation,” or “mighty Salvation,” specifically the Savior Himself, whom Simeon calls “Thy Salvation” (*Lu 2:30*). The metaphor is taken from those animals whose strength is in their horns (*Psa 18:2; 75:10; 132:17*).

2. Dayspring on high: *1:78* This is either *Christ Himself* as the “Sun of righteousness” (*Mal 4:2*) arising on a dark world (*Isa 9:2*), and/or the light which He sheds. *John 8:12*

Jesus said that we are the light of the world (Matt 5:14). How is your light shining this Christmas season?

C. The Witness of Mary *Luke 1:46-47*

1. Mary’s Magnificat: The first word in the Latin translation; is filled with OT allusions and quotations. It reveals that Mary’s heart and mind were saturated with the Word of God. It contains repeated echoes of Hannah’s prayers, (1 Sam. 1:11; 2:1–10). These verses also contain numerous allusions to the law, the psalms, and the prophets. The entire passage is a point-by-point reciting of the covenant promises of God fulfilled in the Messiah.

What is your ‘Magnificat’? Are you, like Mary saturated in the Word of God? What is your song to God and to others?

D. My Witness

Will your Christmas be quickly forgotten?

What can you do in the next three weeks to make Christmas memorable for someone else? Consider...

- 1. Worship Fully:** Be fully engaged in worshipping the Lord by doing for others or being the light through your witness.
- 2. Spend Less:** Break the materialistic crime of Christmas by spending less.
- 3. Give More:** For God so loved He gave...by spending less you can give more to missions and those in need.
- 4. Love All:** For God so loved the world...have you loved and prayed for the ones who everyone else hates?

All passages in the King James Bible

Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:31-33 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: **33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:68-79 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;

For he hath visited and redeemed his people,

69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us

In the house of his servant David...

78 ...Through the tender mercy of our God;

Whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said,

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.