

INTRO: In anticipation of Christmas, this past advent season we studied three miracle babies. My definition of a miracle baby is one who would not have born if God had not directly intervened. Isaac's mother Sarah was 90 years old and past child-bearing. Samuel's mother was barren; the Bible says, "God closed her womb." John's mother Elizabeth, like Sarah, was old and past child-bearing. Now Mary, the mother of today's miracle baby was young and healthy. So this Christmas miracle baby has some things in common with the other three, yet some things that were very different.

I. MIRACLE BABY JESUS WAS PROPHESED LIKE NO OTHER

A. Somewhat like the other three

1. Eli to Hannah about a year before Samuel's birth
2. God to Abraham 25, 15, and 1 year before Isaac's birth
3. Isaiah re: John (voice) 500 years prior; Malachi (Elijah) ca. 300 years prior; Gabriel to Zacharias exactly 9 months prior to John's birth

B. I don't have time to relate all O.T. prophesies about baby Jesus!

1. 'enmity' to Adam and Eve 4,000 years prior; 'surely die' hence all are sinners since all die; whole world needs Jesus to conquer death, hell
2. 'Seed' to Abraham; Paul in Gal.3:16 says Seed(s) is Christ
3. 'raise up a prophet' to Moses; John 1:21 are you 'the prophet' to John
4. to David (1 Chron.17) 'seed...establish His throne forever
5. Isaiah repeatedly; 7:14 re: virgin birth, ch.53 laid on Him the iniquities..
6. Magi asked where; Micah 5:2 Bethlehem, where Samuel anointed Davi
7. most recently, angel Gabriel to Mary (Lk.1) and Joseph (Mt.1)

II. THIS MIRACLE BABY'S BIRTH WAS LIKE NO OTHER

A. Our confession: "who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary"

1. Isaiah had hinted: "Behold...virgin...Immanuel" (7:14)
2. Matthew explains: Immanuel, which means, God with us
3. Mary gets a brief explanation: (Luke 1:35) The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you, therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be **called** the Son of God
4. Joseph also gets a brief explanation: (Matt.1:21) "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit

5. this is the only miracle baby who is both God and man, in one baby
6. this miraculous birth is worth a heavenly, angelic choir
7. this miracle baby deserves gifts like gold, frankincense, and myrrh

B. All this, in a manger

1. OK, some births in back seat of car, on way to hospital
2. but only shepherds heard the heavenly angels' choir
3. King of heaven and earth, born in most humble setting

III. THIS MIRACLE BABY HAD A NORMAL EARLY LIFE

A. An early quick trip to Egypt

1. right after receiving expensive Magi gifts (ah yes, God's timing)
2. lots of families move; some even to escape danger
3. this to fulfill: Out of Egypt I have called my Son (Matt.2:15)
4. i.e., even events of history can be prophecies

B. Miracle Baby raised by godly parents

1. Luke 2:52 ...increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men
2. exemplified as 12-year-old in temple
3. grew up much as we, yet without sin

IV. SO, HOW DID THIS MIRACLE BABY'S LIFE TURN OUT

A. He proved Himself to be the perfect man

1. Is.53:2...no form or comeliness...not esteem Him
2. unjustly accused, crucified; Centurion attested "just man; Son of God"
3. darkness and earthquake at His death; God's wrath vs. sin
4. ProLife billboard: baby w/Harlely Davidson jacket, 'born to ride/die'

B. But this adult miracle baby was truly God!

1. healed sick; calmed sea; fed 4/5,000; raised dead (Nain, daughter, Lazarus)
2. rose Himself, as first fruits of them that believe
3. only king who delivered on every promise He made

V. THIS MIRACLE BABY IS THE WORLD'S SAVIOR

A. Since Adam, all are born sinful, mortal (except this miracle Baby)

1. by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned (Rom.5:12)
2. don't blame Adam; each of us has added his share of sin

B. God chose this miracle baby to be our Savior

1. **His** Son; true God; able to deliver everything needed
2. real baby; been there, been that; we can identify
3. babies are gifts from god, esp. miracle babies

CONCLUSION: With M. Luther, let's make this personal: "I believe that Jesus Christ, True God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also True Man, born of the virgin Mary, is **my** Lord, who has redeemed **me** a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won **me** from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may b His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.