

FREEDOM NEWS

WHERE FAITH MEETS ACTION



Message from Pastor Derek Heldreth

Why is Christmas so Significant?

We see the first Biblical mention of Christmas in the Book of Beginnings, Genesis.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.

These words were spoken to Adam and Eve by God Himself, and have profound meaning for all mankind, and were the first prophecy in Scripture, covering the first and second coming of the Christ. These words were spoken shortly after the fall of man into sin and rebellion. God's beautiful creation must now be placed under a curse under the dominion of Satan. But God, already had a plan and a promise of redemption and restoration.

In addressing the serpent, the slanderer, accuser, deceiver and murderer, God makes mention of the very first Christmas promise. In cursing the serpent, God reveals there is no hope of redemption for the devil. But to His man, rather than cursing him, God in love holds forth the promise of blessing through a human offspring that will defeat and crush the deception and destruction brought by the devil.

God speaks of the hostility that will exist between the woman and the serpent and then speaks of their respective seeds. The seed of the woman (sperma in Greek) will vanquish the serpent and his offspring. Isaiah, the prophet, foretold this sign.

Isaiah 7:14 Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The Savior's conception and birth were totally miraculous. Had He been born by normal means He would have borne the sinful nature of all mankind as sin was passed to all men through Adam. He would have had a sin nature and His atoning sacrifice would have been impossible. Only as the Son of God, who offers Himself as a lamb without spot, pure and holy, is He able to step in and give His life in the place of others to satisfy the justice of God and the sentence of death that sin brings.

The death of Jesus as a righteous substitute for others is only possible because of His divine nature. His sacrifice is absolutely infinite and atones for all, takes the place for all.

God's first Christmas promise hinted at the substitutionary death of Jesus when He said to the devil that he would bruise his heel, the heel of the woman's seed. The prophet Isaiah saw this hundreds of years beforehand.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; He has put him to grief, when You shall make his soul an offering for sin...

The cross not only atones for sins but spells doom for the devil.

The supernatural birth of Jesus is the culmination and fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies throughout the Bible. When we celebrate Christmas we are telling everyone that the Savior was born as a baby in a manger, not only reaching down to us from heaven, but actually coming down from heaven. Why? Not just to tell us He loves us but to show us. He came in the lowliest of births in a barn with animals but angels sang to announce that a King had been born. Kings came from afar to worship Him. The devil still attempted to destroy Him through King Herod killing all the male children but, in a dream, angels warned Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt.

The miracle of Christmas shows us most of all that God is a God of miracles who has a plan for His man, Who has a plan for you. A God Who is a God of love Who loves you and made a way for you to know Him and receive His love.

Joy to the world the Lord has come. Let earth receive her King and let every heart prepare Him room. Joy to the world He's coming back soon, not as a baby, but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nursing Home Outreach - December 21st

**Christian Center Bible Institute -
Enrollment still open during the month of December**

Christian Center Church 2249 Classen Blvd Norman OK 73071 (405) 360-5504

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