

**Longview Baptist Temple**  
**Adult Sunday School Lesson**  
**December 21, 2008**



**=CHRISTMAS=**  
A Christmas Lesson

**AIM:** to give the facts of Christmas to my class and to impress upon them the importance of everyone's being ready for Jesus' return for His own.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Teacher, bring a clock to class with you. Discuss with your class: Whenever we know that guests are coming to our home at a certain time, we get into a flurry of excitement; hustle and bustle begin to take place. Maybe there is "company" coming for Christmas! (Encourage the class to name some preparations that are made before the guests' arrival.) We make arrangements for extra sleeping, we plan menus, purchase groceries, and do extra cleaning so that the "company" will find the house attractive and comfortable. All this is done while being aware of what day and hour it is and how much time is remaining. God keeps time, too, with events planned and occurring according to schedule.

**INTRODUCTION:** At Christmas time, especially, we remember that Jesus came to earth from Heaven to live here for 33 years. We recall that Jesus is God, coming in the form of flesh. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14) Jesus left the splendor of Heaven and His exalted place there as Creator for a temporary home on earth! He thus separated Himself from the glory of Heaven to the ignominy which was His on earth where very few recognized Him.

- I. **THERE WAS A PURPOSE FOR HIS COMING.** He came to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10)
  1. In coming, He was bruised. (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 53:5, 10) His "heel" was bruised. This was a great bruising even though it was not as great as that which He inflicted upon Satan. Jesus' bruising speaks of His crucifixion. His suffering was so terrible that He did not resemble a man after He had been marred by His enemies.
  2. In coming, He revealed the Father to us. (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22) Jesus reveals the Father unto those to whom He chooses to reveal Him. Those who receive Jesus as their Saviour know Him, and they in turn are privileged to know the Father, also. (John 14:7)
  3. In coming, He dealt a fatal blow to Satan and to death. Judgment has been pronounced against Satan, but it has not been completely executed yet. (Romans 16:20; Revelation 20:3, 10) Death has also been conquered by Jesus. (Romans 6:8-10, 23)
- II. **THERE WAS A WAY FOR HIS COMING.** (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)
  1. He came in the flesh as a baby boy. He identified Himself with the human race. (John 1:1-3, 14)
    - 1) His coming was miraculous. (Genesis 3:15) Through the miracle work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was conceived in a virgin. He was born of a woman. (Luke 1:35, 37)
    - 2) As He came, He retained His attribute of righteousness. He was God with us. The sin which He bore on the cross was truly borne for us; the sin was placed on Him there because He had no sin of His own. (II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15) Every person born into the world is born as a sinner, but there was no sin in Jesus.
  2. He came of the line of David. The man who was chosen to be His foster father was of the ancestry of King David. The rightful heir to any throne is the firstborn son of the family of a king. Jesus came as Mary's firstborn Son. (Matthew 1:25) The family tree is traced in Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38. Jesus was of the seed of David according to the flesh. (Acts 2:30; Romans 1:3; II Timothy 2:8) Jesus was legally assigned to Joseph as his son. (Luke 3:23) Since Mary was of the tribe of Judah, it is generally agreed that her ancestry also can be traced back to King David. (Jesus has not become King of kings yet; He does not reign over the house of Jacob yet, but He will someday. See Psalm 123:1; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 1:32, 33.)
- III. **THERE WAS A TIME FOR HIS COMING.** God had set the time. When the time came, Jesus came to earth. (Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4)
- IV. **THERE WAS A PLACE FOR HIS COMING.** (Luke 2:1-7)

1. It was in the little town of Bethlehem. Bethlehem is located about six miles south of Jerusalem. It is on a main highway leading to Hebron and Egypt. The town is situated on a limestone ridge. Bethlehem was considered to be very little and insignificant in the section of Israel known as Judah. It had been announced some 700 years before Jesus came to earth as being the birthplace of God's Chosen One. (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:6)
2. It was in a stable of that town. Mary and Joseph had made the trip to Bethlehem from Nazareth because it was a requirement that every person travel to his native city for the sake of being counted in a census-taking. Because of the large number of travelers who had preceded them to the city, the inn had no more vacancies by the time that Mary and Joseph arrived and began to look for accommodations. A stable was the only place available for Mary and Joseph to find shelter and rest. Mary gave birth to Jesus that night in the stable in Bethlehem. She wrapped Him in the beautifully decorated swaddling clothes which she had prepared for Him, and laid Him in a make-shift bed in a manger.

**V. THERE WERE COMPARATIVELY FEW WHO LEARNED OF HIS COMING.**

1. A few shepherds were guarding their sheep in the fields outside Bethlehem. An angel told them of the birth of Jesus. A great number of other angels came to sing a heavenly cantata about His coming. (Luke 2:8-16)
2. The shepherds told some people about Jesus' coming. After the shepherds left the stable in Bethlehem, "...they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." (Luke 2:17-20)
3. Two elderly people who had loved the Lord for many years were watching for His coming to earth. A man, Simeon, had been promised by God that he would not see death until he had seen Jesus. The lady, Anna, had been serving in the temple for many years and had also been watching for Christ's coming. They saw the Baby when Mary and Joseph came with Him to the temple when He was eight days old. (Luke 2:22-38)
4. Some wise men saw God's sign in the sky that the King of Israel had been born. They came from their far eastern country to the capital of Israel—Jerusalem—to see what they could learn about the location of the birthplace of the King of Israel. Because three different kinds of gifts were presented by the wise men to Jesus, tradition has stated that there were three wise men. The fact, however, is that the Bible does not state a definite number. We know that there were two or more wise men who made this journey from their country, which was no doubt Persia. (Matthew 2:1-12)
5. The king and the religious leaders in Jerusalem heard of His coming. They did not want to accept the fact that Someone had come Who could be placed in their positions of authority. They received this news from the wise men.

**VI. THERE HAS BEEN A TIME SET FOR HIS RETURN.** (I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

1. Jesus will come down from His present home in Heaven to meet His own. He will meet all those people who have accepted Him as their Saviour. We do not know the time of His coming for His own; it could be anytime. (Matthew 24:42)
2. How many will have been told the Christmas story by then? The wise, obedient task for us Christians to be performing is to tell others the Gospel message of salvation! (Proverbs 11:30; Matthew 28:18-20)

**CONCLUSION:** Just as there were those on the earth who were watching for the coming of the Promised One from God into the earth, so there are those on earth today who are watching for Jesus' coming into the clouds from Heaven to receive His own unto Himself. Class, how will the coming of the Lord Jesus affect you? Time may be running out now; God's alarm may ring indicating that it is time for Jesus to come today. Will you be among those who will rejoice and sing praises at His coming? Do you know that you are ready to meet Him now?