



**=A CHRISTMAS LESSONS=**

**Lesson 1**

**The Christmas Story from God's Viewpoint**

**AIM:** to teach my pupils the true meaning of Christmas as God sees it.

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Ask the pupils what Christmas means to them. You may start by asking what they want for Christmas. Then ask them what Christmas means to God. This will lead you into the lesson.

- I. **GOD'S SON WAS NOT BORN IN BETHLEHEM.** We could never teach this enough. Let us impress upon the minds of our pupils that Jesus came to earth in Bethlehem, but He is the eternal Son of God.
  1. He was in the beginning. (John 1:1a)
  2. He was with God. (John 1:1b)
  3. He was God. (John 1:1c) Also, read Isaiah 9:6, 7.
  4. He became fashioned as a man. (Philippians 2:8) This explains perhaps a little better what happened.
  5. He dwelt among men. (John 1:14) The word "dwelt" here means "tabernacled." He simply camped out on earth for 33 years. You will also find reference to His pre-existence in Genesis 3:8; Daniel 3:25; John 1:3; 17:5; and Revelation 1:17.
  
- II. **GOD, NOT JOSEPH, WAS JESUS' FATHER.** The Devil enjoys hearing parents tell their children that Joseph was the father of Jesus. Jesus is never spoken of as such in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is very careful to use every word properly in showing us this truth. Let us notice some Scriptures to illustrate this.
  1. Matthew 1:21. You will notice that the Holy Spirit says to Joseph when announcing the coming of the Christ Child that Mary should bring forth "a" son—not "your" son.
  2. Luke 2:33. You will notice it says, "And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him." It did not say, "His father and His mother."
  3. Luke 2:49. Notice Jesus said that He must be about His Father's business. Joseph was looking for Jesus, and Jesus was very careful to remind Joseph that He must be about His Father's business. God was His Father. Joseph was one of the best men in the Bible, but he definitely was not the father of Christ.
  
- III. **JESUS HAD TO BE VIRGIN BORN AND SINLESS IN ORDER TO BE GOD'S ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE.** Perhaps no doctrine receives greater attack by religious people today than the doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ. He was born of a virgin. Let us notice the scriptural teaching of this matter.
  1. Isaiah 7:14. Here we have the prophesy that He would be born of a virgin.
  2. Matthew 1:18. Here it plainly says that Joseph was not the father of Christ as Joseph and Mary had not yet become husband and wife.
  3. Matthew 1:19. At first, Joseph did not even understand and felt that Mary had been unfaithful to him.
  4. Matthew 1:20. The angel tells us of the virgin birth, and that the Holy Ghost, not Joseph, is the Father of Jesus.
  5. Matthew 1:23. The word "Emmanuel" here perhaps wraps the Christmas story up in three words better than any other words. It simply means "God with us." Again, the virgin birth is taught.
  6. Matthew 1:25. Here the virgin birth is mentioned again, and Mary's purity is vindicated.
  7. Luke 1:34. Mary attests to the truth of the virgin birth.
  8. Luke 1:35. Once again the angel tells us of this blessed truth.

9. Matthew 1:16. Notice that the word “begat” is used as it lists the men who carried the seed of the Christ Child. But when it comes to Mary, Joseph is not mentioned as being the father of Christ, neither is the word “begat” used.

IV. **MARY WAS NOT THE MOTHER OF GOD.** Not a better lady can be found in the Bible perhaps than Mary. To be sure, she was a very clean, virtuous lady and deserves much credit. However, she is never called “the mother of God.”

1. Luke 1:47. Notice she called Him, “my Saviour,” which means that she, too, was a sinner.
2. Luke 1:48. Notice that she was a woman of low estate, not high estate.
3. John 2:4. This explains Jesus’ feeling toward the matter.
4. Judges 5:24. Mary was not the only woman called “blessed among women,” was she? It is interesting how tradition slips into Christianity.

V. **WHAT, THEN, DID HAPPEN AS GOD SAW IT?** In eternity past God saw that man was going to be sinful. God, being just, had to demand punishment for sin. God decided to come to the world in the form of a man and pay for man’s sin. Consequently, from God’s standpoint, Bethlehem’s manger was the birth of a body in which to carry the Son of God that He might fulfill the law and pay the penalty for sin.

**CONCLUSION:** May we impress upon our pupils these facts: Jesus is the pre-existent Son of God. He was not the son of Joseph. He did not just come into existence in Bethlehem. He was born of a virgin, and Mary was simply the instrument used to bring His body into the world.