Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Jesus Christ, the Child Conceived of the Holy Spirit

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Do you love "God stories"? Around here, we love "God stories." Many times, when the Holy Spirit takes over, things happen suddenly and quickly. We must always pray to keep in step with the Spirit of God.

God events are narratives, accounts of something that truly happened in time and space. Then people try to figure out "what just happened." Under the superintending influence of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation, we get God's perspective and our answers revealed. Yes, Scripture is revealed truth. Scripture interprets scripture.

Sometimes the celebration of Christmas focuses only on the human side of the birth of Christ. Today I want us to think about the fact that Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) is the Child conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary in the fullness of time, as prophesied.

⁶For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6, 7 NKJV

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

What must it have been like for Mary the mother of Jesus to have had an angel visitation? Gabriel had already visited Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Now he would tell Mary not only that she was highly favored, that the Lord was with her, and that she was blessed among women, but also that she would conceive and bring forth a son to be called Jesus.

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; and He shall reign over the house of
Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1:32, 33

This child would be called the Son of God.

And the angel answered and said to her, "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. Luke 1:35 NKJV

Amazingly, Mary responded with "be it unto me according to your word." Then Gabriel appeared to Joseph, to whom Mary was espoused, to tell him not to fear to take unto him Mary his wife; "for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." Joseph had it confirmed by Gabriel that this child was to be called Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.

Jesus Christ was born king, King of kings and Lord of lords, with a sovereign right to rule, the final court of appeal, and as the One who holds the power of life and death. Jesus surpasses earthly rulers in His character, dominion, authority, power, and kingdom.

Jesus has a royal lineage, a royal heritage. He is of the dynasty of David and a son of Abraham. (Matthew 1.1-17) He met both the racial and royal requirements to be Messiah and King. He fulfills the promise to David in the Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel 7. Joseph carried the legal line through Solomon's son Rehoboam. Mary carried the royal line from David through Nathan. In a sheer stroke of brilliance, Christ being born of a virgin circumvented the curse of Jeconiah (Jeremiah 22:30) which declared that there could never be a child of Jeconiah on the throne of David. Jesus had the legal and the real right to be King and Messiah.

Jesus has a royal character. A king rules unilaterally and absolutely as a single sole authority. He is a supreme ruler with power to say what lives or dies. He can rule according to wisdom or whim, in justice or tyranny, according to mercy and grace or according to violence. Earthly kings come to power by lot, by usurpation, by dynasty, or by appointment/election. Earthly kings exercise arbitrary power; Jesus Christ received His authority and power from His Father, God. Jesus was anointed king and received His kingdom from His Father. (Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 11:27; John 3:35; 1 Corinthians 15)

Jesus Christ is a righteous king. A righteous king rules according to God's wisdom, justice, standard, mercy, and grace. (Psalm 72; Proverbs 16:12-15) Jesus Christ came, the Incarnate Word, full of grace and truth. In Him is life. He is pre-eminent. (John 1)

Jesus' birth was unique.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18 NKJV

He was born of a virgin according to prophetic word. According to the law, Joseph should have ended the relationship with Mary when he found out she was pregnant; but God intervened in a dream with that message from Gabriel. (Mt. 1:20ff) Between the experience and potential belief, God intervened with the truth about the experience so

that Joseph and Mary would have the right expectations and subsequent behavior. The birth of Jesus was a royal birth as Jesus is the unique Son of God.

Jesus, however, wasn't born in a palace, but in some sort of stable with animals and a manger. It was a humble beginning for sure.

They came to worship this newborn king. Not only did the shepherds appear to see Jesus of whom the angels spoke, but also the Magi at some point came from the East. These wise men were "the king makers of the east." Magi appointed kings and judges and dominated Gentile culture in terms of authority.

This royal king had His own star. These Magi were on a search, a search that led them to Jerusalem and before Herod the king. They said, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him." This created quite a stir and Herod gathered together the chief priests and scribes to demand where Christ should be born. Learning it was Bethlehem, the Magi followed the star "till it came and stood over where the young child was." (Matthew 2.2,9)

These Gentile Magi came to worship. They presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gold symbolizes God and kingliness. Frankincense speaks of deity and the fragrance of worship. Myrrh speaks of humanity, of death and burial, and of grace. Warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way; but Herod had already caught the import and threat of the arrival of the Magi to worship the one born king. Herod ordered the slaughter of potential contenders for his crown. Beware the leaven of Herod (the Herodians), Jesus would later say.

Jesus lived a life of destiny framed by the prophetic word. God prophesied that this King would be born of a virgin in Bethlehem and at some point be called out of Egypt as Son. In spite of a massacre, He would live and be called a Nazarene. He came to fulfill all righteousness in a life of obedience to His Father. He came to die according to the eternal plan of God. He rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, as Ruler over the kings of the earth with all authority given unto Him in heaven and on earth. Jesus the King fulfills prophecy, the royal decree of the Sovereign God.

Jesus rules now over a spiritual kingdom, over the hearts of those who believe in Him and who believe Him. Those who submit to His rule receive forgiveness for their sins by means of the Sacrifice of Himself on the Cross as payment of the debt note of sin. Those who submit to His Lordship put their destinies into His hands and will find that every knee will bow to Him.

Jesus is king in every sense in the "already and not yet" tension of the Word of God. As He died and rose again and ascended into heaven, He sits in majesty as the Lamb Slain, the Lion of Judah, King of Righteousness, Prince of Peace, King of Glory. **And He is coming again. Be ready. Amen.**

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