

The Many Miracles of Christmas

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Two thousand years ago, the most important person ever to come into this world was born in the little known city of Bethlehem with more fanfare and miraculous happenings, than accompanied the birth of any other person in history of mankind.

No King, ruler, potentate (monarch), world leader or any other person's birth was attended by angels- singing "glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will toward men" OR had a special star in the heavens-alter his course, so it could guide "three wise men from the east".

These wise men were told that a **Prophet** (foretold 700 years previously) would be born in one of the smallest cities in the country-less than 5miles/8 kilometers away from Jerusalem.

They pressed on and found the young child and called Him "the King of the Jews" and bowed down and worshiped Him. For this child was meant by God to change the world for better—more than anyone born before or after Him. And He did !

That is why for the last two millenniums of history His sacrificial life, incredible teachings of love and forgiveness and obedience to God's Word, Will and Plan for mankind's eternal future has left a **legacy**(some thing handed down by a predecessor) through His Church.

That early church founded by His first disciples has become the largest religious faith in the world- exceeding 2 Billion souls.

He (Jesus) became the role model and inspiration for His church that has launched the greatest humanitarian program for influencing this world for good than any other organization, nation, religious body or individual.

His followers, based on His teachings & in spite of unprecedented Satanic and secularist oppositions, HAVE STABLISHED more orphanages, hospitals, educational institutions and missionary outreaches that have given HELP & HOPE to more suffering people **than** any other movement in history.

The ministries of the New Testament Church have inspired personal devotion to spreading Hid Gospel truth to both educated and uneducated people groups, who were illiterate, not even having a written language or a civilization of their own.

This gifted child at twelve years of age confounded(surprised/bewildered/proved wrong) the Jewish theologians of His day and yet returned to His home in Nazareth-putting Himself under His parents authority and grew up to become a common carpenter.

The birth of such a one who was "the only begotten Son of God" should have been announced by miracles of such an order that any honest person would be forced to

conclude that He was to be the world's most honored, worshipped and served person who ever lived. And He was!

From the Gospel records of His first century birth list, **at least ten miracles testify** that Jesus Christ was not only a true and living person BUT God in human flesh. At this Christmas, it is worth considering the miracles of Jesus—for they prove that the baby was the beginning of the most influential and unique person to live on earth in all of history.

1. His birth involved all three members of the triune God.

God the Father—creator of the universe—planned and directed His birth (John 3:16). The greatest gift our loving and merciful God could give as a sacrifice for man's sin was His only Son to be the substitute for man's sin.

God the Son—Jesus Christ—the prince of Heaven humbled Himself and made Himself lower than the angels, so He could taste death for every one (Phil 2:5-11). One of the characteristics of God is that he is eternal, thus He can not die. Even angels do not die. So our savior made Himself lower than the angels so He could be the living sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Thus, the blood of Jesus was in reality the blood of God, which was and is sufficient to cleanse the sins of the world's population.

God the Holy spirit—planted the divine seed in the virginal womb of Mary (Lk 1:35)

2. Jesus foreknew He would be despised, buffeted unmercifully and rejected by His own people, yet He came into this world. *“He came into His own, and His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11).*

3. The one and only time in history a virgin gave birth to a son.

The stellar sign of Christ's divine nature is seen in His bypassing the human sin-nature, passed down through Adam and his race so that the Messiah (Christ) could be the sinless sacrifice for sin, thirty three(33) years later. Admittedly, this is impossible without divine intervention. This is the question asked by Mary when the angel Gabriel predicted she would be the virgin who would become the mother of the Messiah. To which he said “...with God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

4. The 800-years old Messianic prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled when a virgin gave birth to a Son. “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). Only God can prophesy events in the future that are certain to come to pass. Prophet Daniel explained “...there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets...” or predicts future events that are certain to come to pass. This clear Messianic prophecy of Isaiah given 800years before Jesus was born of virgin , gives unmistakable proof that her child was the promised Messiah.

5, The chosen virgin married a God honoring disciplined mate.

The time honored instinct of the human race is the physical act of “knowing your bride” in obedience to God's command to “be fruitful and multiply” the race. These two were a miraculous exception. Mary who offered herself to God as “ the handmaid of the Lord” married a man who was submitted to the will of God and controlled himself for nine months. For the Scripture says “Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS (Matt 1:24-25).

6. It took a miracle for mother and baby to survive the arduous trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem while nine months pregnant.

Medical doctor Luke described Mary's prenatal condition as "...*that while she was there (Bethlehem) the days were completed for her to be delivered...*" Mary was great with child before she rode ninety miles/144km on either Donkey or horse, Camel or Oxcart over ancient road and rough terrain from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem, for the Christ child to be born in the city of His father David, as per the prophecy. They could have stopped in any of the villages or even Jerusalem-the capital of the country just 5mile/8KM away. But they did not. For Mary was a pregnant virgin and the Messiah was to be born of her in Bethlehem.

7. The fulfillment of the 700-year old prophecy of Micah designating the exact city where the Messiah was to be born. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

8. A pagan Roman Caesar set the exact month of His birth. (Luke 2:1-5)

In spite of the Satanic opposition to His coming into this world as the Son of God, it was miraculously a pagan Caesar that set the date right on time to coordinate with the seventy weeks of years prophesied by the great Hebrew prophet Daniel. It implied that there would yet be 70 weeks of years {490 years(Daniel 9:24-25)} until Messiah would be cutoff, but not for Himself but for the sins of the world. Can you imagine or think a pagan King, out of over 100,000months of the human race, could have picked the only month that coordinated with the last month of pregnancy of a young Jewish virgin for God to visit this world in the form of His Son? Obviously, God was in control of all the details of the incarnation..

9. His "star" altered its orbit to lead the three wise men from the East to Jerusalem who were directed by the prophet to Bethlehem to worship Him, who was the "King of the Jews".

10. Being warned in a dream to disobey King Herod (for he intended to kill the newborn child), the wise men departed to their own country another way. Thus they helped to save the Lord of Glory. There were, of course many other miracles that sacred night when the creator entered His own creation while escaping the sin of Adam's race, so He could become the perfect sacrifice for man's sin.

Of all the miracles of heavenly revelation and messages from God Himself through His holy angels, none is greater than the one given by the angel Gabriel to the humble shepherds-who were shortly to see this infant born Son of God, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. The angel said " *Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.*" *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude He of the heavenly host praising God and saying " Glory to God in the highest Is a and on earth peace, goodwill toward men! (Luke 2:10-14).*

These miracles cry out to us that truly He is the only Son of God; He paid the ransom price of our sins, which is why we can be saved by placing our faith in Him. Let us proclaim Him boldly at this Christmas and say "God is with me because I have received Him as my personal Savior". Have a great and Blessed Christmas !