

The Word of Life Messenger

“Holding forth the word of life” Phil. 2:16

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HE MUST BE BORN A CERTAIN WAY

“Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?” Matt. 11:3. John the Baptist was in prison at the time he sent disciples to Jesus with the above question. One might say what does this question have to do with Christ coming into the world? Let us seek a Bible Answer.

I. He must be born a certain way to fulfill the scriptures. The prophet Isaiah tells us; “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call his name Immanuel” Isaiah 7:14. To qualify as Saviour, Jesus had to be born of a virgin. This was a miraculous birth. So the manner of His birth tells us He is the Christ. “And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary; for thou has found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name 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 for ever;

and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God ... and Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her,” Luke 1:26-35, 38.

II. He must be born in a certain city to fulfill the scriptures. “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting,” Micah 5:2. In Matthew 2:1-6 and Luke 2:4-7 we see the prophecy fulfilled to the jot and tittle. We know he is the Christ because He was born in the right city.

III. He must die in the right place and the right way to fulfill the scriptures. We are told in Isaiah 53:9 “And He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.” Christ died between two thieves, he was buried in a rich man’s grave, Matt. 27:57. We know that Jesus was and is the Christ because He died and was buried and rose again according to the scriptures. Then we know He was

the Christ because He died forsaken of God just as David tells us in Ps. 22:1. Jesus uttered this forsaken cry on the cross, Matt 27:45. Also David tells us they pierced His hands and feet, Ps. 22:16. Everyone, believer and unbeliever, will agree Christ died by crucifixion. His precious blood was shed for many. I do know this, that He is my Saviour. The most wonderful thing that can come to any person is to be saved. The person Christ Jesus is the all important one for us to know and believe in him.

He was born the right way, virgin born. He was born in the right city, Bethlehem. He died the right way, between two thieves forsaken of God, with all the agony spoken by the prophets. He is now at the right hand of God interceding for believers. He may come soon. If He does, are you ready and looking for his glorious return? Yes, He is the One who was to come, He has come, and He will come. The angels said, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” To look for another would be to doubt the scriptures that foretold of His coming into the world as God spoke through the prophets. To look for another is to doubt the truthfulness of the angel’s message to Joseph and Mary and the shepherds in the field that glorious night. “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,*” Acts 16:31.

~ B. A. Wilson

THE TWO SCHEMES OF SALVATION

I Corinthians 1:18-21, 23-31. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."... "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence, But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

There are only two schemes of salvation. It matters not who teaches salvation from the eternal desert of sin, he teaches one of these two schemes. They do not mix. Man tries to mix them but God says they will not mix. Romans 1:6 "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace; But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

One is the product of the mind of man. The other of the mind of God. One is of man's wisdom, the other of God's. One of man's power, the other of God's power. One has man's own righteousness as the means of acceptance with God, the other that of God or the Lord Jesus Christ. One has as the means of expiating sins man's sorrow for sins and penance, the other has the death of Christ. One exalts man, the other exalts God. One has little sin and little saviour, the other big sin and big saviour. One says do right and demand salvation as a matter of justice, the other says believe in Christ Jesus and you are saved as a matter of grace. One says do and live, the other says believe and live. The one thanks God for what man is, the other thanks God for what Christ Jesus is. One says salvation is secure as long as

we are obedient, the other salvation is secure as long as God is true.

One makes ceremonies essential to salvation, the other makes salvation essential to ceremonies. One says do and God will love you, the other says do because God already loves you. The one has the spirit of bondage to fear, the other has the spirit of a child whereby we cry Abba Father. One says God saves good people, the other says God saves bad people. One tries to worship God in ceremonies, the other worships God in Spirit. One has confidence in the flesh, the other has none. One rejoices in man, the other in Christ Jesus.

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us..."

~E.R. Henderson

I SHALL SEE HIM

"In my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:26)

As we cross the threshold of a new century, many people are inquiring about prophetic events. They want to know just when are these events going to occur and exactly what will happen. This is not the focus, however, of Job's devout anticipation. He says, "In my flesh I shall see God." He does not say, "I shall see the saints" or "I shall see my family," though doubtless that will bring him great joy. He does not say, "I shall see the pearly gates or the walls of jasper or the streets of gold," but "I shall see God." This is the supreme desire of all Christians, the joyful hope of all the redeemed. Jesus Christ was the Word made flesh. It has been our delight to behold Him in the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper as we remember His death, burial, and resurrection, and His broken body and shed blood which has redeemed us from

the curse of the law. It has been our privilege to behold Him in fellowship and in prayers to thank Him for giving His life as a ransom for us. It has been our joy to behold Him in His word, to see His mighty works, His gracious gifts, His amazing love and grace, and His majestic glory. The apostle John says we shall see Him as He is and shall be made in His likeness (1 John 3:2). We shall dwell upon the attributes of Him who is altogether lovely. No wonder Job looked forward in anticipation to the One "whom mine eyes shall behold and not another." It would do us good to think often of Heaven's bliss and our dear Saviour. Earthly things will fade away, but here is a glory which shall never lose its luster, a glory which shall never fade—"I shall see God."

~ Larry Windham

HE HATH DONE ALL THINGS WELL

Mark 7:37

The occasion for this great statement occurred after Jesus had healed a man who was deaf and who had an impediment of speech. When the people saw this they were astonished beyond measure.

As I read this account of the physical healing of this man and how the people recognized how Jesus had done all things well, I am reminded that He is God's Son who does all things well in salvation and in our lives.

This One who hath done all things well is the Lord Jesus Christ in whom God says He is well pleased. On three

different occasions in the book of Matthew we see this. The first time is at the baptism of Jesus where God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" Matt. 3:17. The second time, Matthew quotes from Isaiah and says, "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased" Matt. 12:18. The third account is given when Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John on the mountain. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" Matt. 17:5.

It pleases the Father to save those who believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. "It pleased the Lord to bruise him" Isaiah 53:10. He did all things well in taking our place and suffering the penalty of our sins on the cross. His resurrection from the grave is a guarantee that God was satisfied with what Jesus did for us. Do you believe that Jesus shed His blood on the cross for you and was buried and raised from the grave? "He hath done all things well" and does not need our help.

~Gladwin Carpenter

NONE OTHER NAME

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" Acts 4:12.

I. First, we notice a great NECESSITY. "We must be saved." "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we had our conservation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others" Eph. 2:2-3. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world" Eph. 2:12. Jesus said, "I came to seek and save the lost."

II. We see there a great POSSIBILITY. "Salvation." "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace are ye saved)" Eph. 2:4-5. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of

Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us" Eph. 2:13-14. He said come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. He could offer salvation to all because he had suffered on the cross all the guilt and penalty for their sins. This he did on Calvary when he cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" There is but one answer to that question. It was because he had taken our sins as his very own and God refused to look upon Him. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, might live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" I Peter 2:24.

III. A great authority. His "Name." There is none other name, but thank God there is a name that means salvation. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins" Matt. 1:21. "To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins" Acts 10:43. "But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become

the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" John 1:12.

IV. A great responsibility. "None other Name." "Who will have all men to be saved, and come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" 1 Tim. 2:4-6. There is no other way. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" John 14:6. There is no other foundation. "For other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" 1 Cor. 3:11. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him" Heb. 2:3. If you are lost you are not neglecting this one, but you are rejecting him. And as a result of this, you are condemned already. God help us as his children not to neglect to tell forth this good news, that Christ died for sinners, was buried, and raised again the third day. He lives now at the right hand of God.

~Charles Ellis

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Notice

The Northeast MS Baptist
Bble Conference will meet
with Pleasant Grove Baptist
Church on Hwy 41 south of
Pontotoc, MS on Friday,
January 8, 2010.

7:00 p.m. Song, prayer

7:05–Owen Hitchcock

Alt.–Bobby Poss

7:30–Sammy Hardin

Alt.–Billy Little

7:55–Chris Duncan

Alt.–Robert E. Alexander

Offering, Prayer

Fellowship Meal

Bro. Fred Hartley and the
church invite you to this time
of Bible study.

The North Central Conf.
will meet at Pleasant Grove
on Monday, January 18,
2010 at 9:50 a.m.

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