

## NEW LIFE IN JESUS

In my lifetime, I have seen many Christmas seasons come and go, but reading the Christmas story never gets tiresome. I have heard the story of His birth many times, by many people, about how the Angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth. He spoke to a virgin named Mary who was betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph. She would bring forth a son, the son of God.

Going over the story now as an adult is so different than the first time I heard it. My concept as a child was "I was glad He was born, but Christmas really means presents for me". Funny the way we as little children would think about things. In reflecting on the story, I remember how the angel appeared to the shepherds to bring good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (**Luke 2:9-14**) So the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see this thing that came to pass.

The first time I went to Jerusalem we went to Bethlehem where Jesus was supposedly to have been born. I'll never forget that visit where His manger was. Presently, a church has been built over it, but the very spot where the baby was born was marked so everyone could witness. I bent down and touched the very spot He had once occupied, it was amazing.

The scriptures tell of a man whose name was Simeon. He declared by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. We know the story of how he did see the baby child, Christ Jesus before he departed. **Luke 2:25-32**.

Let's focus our attention now on this wonderful event that has taken place. It's such a miraculous blessing that it covers the whole earth and has now affected all of mankind. The abbreviations B.C. means "Before Christ" and A.D. means "anno domini" (Latin for in the year specified of the Christian era, he was born in other words "In the year of the Lord".) When God who no one has seen at any time (**1 John 4:12**) is now a reality through the birth of Christ in the manger. And again in **John 1:18**, no one has seen God at any time. The only begotten son, who is in the bosom of the father, he has declared him.

The word declared him, literally means it is he who interpreted the father. This Greek verb is: **exegeomai**. This is where we get the English word exegete, and exegesis. The son has exaggerated the father. This means to lead out in plain view for all to see. The verb came to mean: explain, tell, interpret, to report, describe,

and declare. In **John 14:8-9**, Philip was told by Jesus "if you have seen me you've seen the father". No wonder **Hebrews 1:1, 2** says "He now speaks to us (one way) in a son".

When Christ was born into this world it was the greatest event that ever occurred on planet earth for all of humanity. We all were eternally doomed until the plan of God was put into motion after the fall of Adam. But the Bible is very clear that Jesus became the second Adam. As the first Adam adversely affected all of mankind, so does the second Adam, (Jesus) affect in a much better way. **Romans 5:12-18**.

Let's take time to see the most important thing accomplished by this babe in the manger coming to earth. **Jesus brought redemption; freeing mankind from eternal death.** (Eternally separated from God) Mankind did not have the opportunity as Adam had; to decide for himself "to hear from God" then make a choice. He simply inherited spiritual death from another man's decision, Adam. **Romans 5: 12-14**. Now through the sacrifice of one "Jesus Christ" each and every individual can decide for himself his life's eternal outcome. (**Romans 5:15-19**)

Man is created in God's image; an eternal being with an eternal outcome. Please take time to read **John 3:13-18**. May Christmas, "the birth of Jesus Christ", deliver many from the love of evil darkness to His glorious light.

Merry Christmas,

JANN T. BUTLER

Pastor Jann recommends the book:

**Last Days Survival Guide** by Rick Renner



I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE AND NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE AND NO ONE COMES TO THE