

## **A PLACE FOR JESUS**

Luke 2:1-7

**INTRODUCTION:** Joseph and Mary made their way to Bethlehem to pay their taxes. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary was about to give birth. There was no place for Jesus to be born. The Inn was full so they had to stay in the stable. It seems out of place for the Son of God to be born in a manger. It is ironic that the world today has no place for Jesus even though Christmas is celebrated by almost everyone.

### **I. HIS PLACE IN CREATION**

#### **A. HIS POSITION AS CREATOR.**

Some attempt to remove Jesus from His position in creation. The Bible tells us that Jesus is eternal. He is the Creator of all things. Colossians 1:17 states: "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." He existed before anything was created, and He is supreme over all His creation. In John 1:10, we read that "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not."

#### **B. HIS PRE-EMINENCE IN CREATION.**

We see the display of God's glory and His power in the things He has created. Jesus has the pre-eminence in creation. In Philippians 2:9-11, we read that Jesus has "the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Jesus is King of the Universe. Every ruler and every individual will answer to Him. Jesus' place in creation is the King of kings.

### **II. HIS PLACE IN CHRISTMAS**

#### **A. HE IS THE CENTER OF CHRISTMAS.**

There would be no Christmas if Jesus had not come into the world. Everything about Jesus' birth is miraculous. The Gospel of John begins with, "In the beginning was the Word [Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (1:1-2, 14).

The gospels of Matthew and Luke record Jesus' birth. The angel told Joseph that the baby's name was Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) He would also be known as "Immanuel" which means "God with us." (Matthew 1:23) The angel announced to Joseph and Mary the child she would conceive would be of Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:31, 34-35)

The events associated with the birth of Jesus fulfilled numerous Old Testament prophecies given hundreds of years before. The Old Testament contains over 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is the central figure in Scripture and history. The angel told Mary "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest." The wise men came in search of Jesus. They asked in Matthew 2:2, "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."

### **B. HE IS CELEBRATED AT CHRISTMAS.**

Jesus' birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in celebrating His entrance into the world. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child. The true meaning of Christmas is not celebrated today because Jesus has been removed from His rightful place. We should celebrate His birth for He came to be the Savior of the world. Jesus is the Light that came to the world to give light to every man, woman, and child.

Think of it, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born so we can have a Savior to save us from our sins. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. Jesus is, was, and ever shall be fully God. Yet, He came into the world as a baby. As a grown man, He died in our place for our sins. Jesus' place in Christmas is King for He was born a King.

## **III. HIS PLACE ON THE CROSS**

### **A. HIS PURPOSE FOR THE CROSS.**

Jesus' death on the cross was planned in eternity past. The Heavenly Father's will was for Jesus to go to the cross, and Jesus was willing to go to the cross. Christ's death on the cross was the only way for sinners to be saved. Jesus' death made it possible for a Holy God to freely forgive the sins of all who trust Christ as their Savior and Lord. Jesus took the place of sinners on the cross so they need not perish if they will believe in Him.

### **B. HIS PROMISE FROM THE CROSS.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. They deserved their due punishment. One of those thieves said to Jesus in Luke 23:42, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus made a promise to that dying thief as recorded in Luke 23:43 when He said, "Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." The thief was saved entirely by Jesus' sacrifice for him. He was saved by grace and grace alone.

When we think of the cross, we think of Jesus as well as the two thieves nailed to their own cross. I was crucified with Him. He died in my place on the cross. It was as if I was on the cross. Paul said in Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

#### **IV. HIS PLACE IN THE CHRISTIAN**

##### **A. HE IS OUR LIGHT.**

Our foolish hearts were darkened until Jesus gave us light. When Joseph and Mary carried Jesus to the Temple, Simeon held Jesus in his arms prophesying saying of Jesus, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Simeon's prophecy recorded in Luke 2:32 declared that Jesus is a light to Gentiles as well as the Jewish people.

Jesus would later say in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Jesus also said in John 12:46, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

Paul would say of us who are saved in 1 Thessalonians 5:5, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

##### **B. HE IS OUR LIFE.**

John stated at the beginning of his gospel in John 1:4, "In him (Jesus) was life; and the life was the light of men." Jesus is the source of our earthly life and our spiritual life. In 1 John 1:1, John said, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." The incarnation of Jesus made it possible for the apostles to say they had looked upon and handled the "Word of Life."

We were spiritually dead in our sins and trespasses until Jesus saved us. Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Jesus said in John 6:47, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John wrote in 1 John 5:11-12, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Paul wrote in Colossians 3:3-4, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Jesus is our life. We are saved by him, we are united to him, we are seated with him, we abide with him, and we are waiting for him to return. For some people life may be music, or sports or their work, but as Christians, we should say, "Jesus Christ is our life."

### **C. HE IS OUR LORD.**

**Warren Wiersbe:** "Everything in creation obeys God except man, and man has the most to lose by his disobedience."

In Peter's message to the Jews he said, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36) They crucified Jesus as a criminal, but His resurrection proved to them that He is Lord and Messiah.

Jesus is Lord. We do not make Him Lord. Sinners are saved because Jesus is Lord. Jesus is able to save the worse of sinners. We must receive Him as the Lord of our lives. This means we submit to Jesus as ruler, boss, and master of our whole life. When Paul and Silas were in prison, the Philippian jailer asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:30-31)

We read in Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The place for Jesus in the life of a Christian is Lord.

### **LESSONS FOR LIFE:**

1. Jesus is seated in heaven on His throne. That is His rightful place.
2. In Jesus' second coming, He will be seated upon the throne of David. This is His rightful place.
3. When Jesus creates a new heaven and earth, He will reign throughout eternity. This will be His rightful place.
4. Jesus' rightful place is to be enthroned in the life of every person. Is Jesus in His rightful place in your life?