

A Christmas Paradox- Simple and Complex

Galatians 4:4

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, (NKJV)

The birth of Jesus is such a simple story that thousands of children will reenact again this Christmas and even those children will be able to understand it. But like things that look simple from the outside but are very complex on the inside so is the birth of our Savior. We often take what seems to be the simple things in life and do not realize just how complex it is. But God is a great master builder. In everything He makes He uses intricate designs. They tell us that snow that to you and me seems to be pretty simple is really very intricate so that no two snow flakes are alike.

So too with birth. Even though it happens hundreds of thousands of times a day around the world, yet some of the best gynaecologist will admit that it is somewhat of a miracle. But I am not simply talking about that aspect. I was born 60 years ago today and I am sure that my mother who was having her third child did not consider me a miracle.

And Mary two thousand years ago would hardly have thought of the birth of all of her children as a miracle, as it seems that her and Joseph had several children after Jesus was born. And to the inn keeper there was no miracle but rather an inconvenience. And to the other guests that just wanted a good night's sleep I am sure that it was.

But this child born in Bethlehem that night was not just any child, not just another child but rather He was the God Child. And how can you explain that? This morning I want to take the next few minutes and consider the Paradox of Christmas, that though Jesus birth might have appeared as just a natural life process, it was much more than that.

I. A simple birth

A. A peasant birth.

1. There were so many of them throughout Israel.
2. Another mouth to feed, someone else that must be looked after.
3. Mary and Joseph would never be able to send Him off to the best schools.
4. They could only offer Him the life of a carpenter, to work with His hands to provide a living for Himself and family, his mother, as Joseph is never heard of again after Jesus turns twelve.

B. A normal birth.

1. 9 months just like everyone else.
2. Don't you think Mary had morning sickness, and all the other problems that come with a pregnancy
3. The labor pains were just as a normal birth.

C. To all around this was just another child.

1. Jesus grew up a simple boy, a simple man.
2. He was quite ordinary, He laughed, played and cried, just like any other child.
3. He literally put on the flesh that He had created.
4. Hebrews says that He tempted in all points just like we are, only without sin. Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
5. He became weary, thirsty, hungry, tired and sleepy just like any other person.
6. He was 100 % man, everything that man is today except without sin.

D. Simply born in a barn and laid in a manger.

1. No servants attended His birth.
2. No one was there to anoint Him with precious ointments.
3. There were no robes of splendor to adorn Him.
4. With all the pain of child birth Jesus came into this world, in a most primitive situation.
5. With the exception of the shepherds who were divinely alerted, and no one would take much stock in what a shepherd said.
6. In almost every way this was a simple birth like untold millions of others, but it was not.

II. A complex birth

A. How do you wrap the God in flesh?

1. You see this child was God in flesh.
 - a. Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
2. All that God is Jesus is in bodily form.
 - a. Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
 - b. Col 2:9 9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, NIV
 - c. Col 2:9 For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. NLT

3. Yet He laid aside His Godliness
 - a. Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
 - b. Phil 2:7-8 he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. NLT
 - c. Phil 2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; ASV
 - d. Phil 2:7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men and was born a human being. AMP
4. He did not do that for Himself but for us.
 - a. Without Him emptying Himself they could never have rebelled against Him and put Him to death.
 - (1) Heb 2:16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. KJV
 - (2) Heb 2:16 For, as we all know, He [Christ] did not take hold of angels [the fallen angels, to give them a helping and delivering hand], but He did take hold of [the fallen] descendants of Abraham [to reach out to them a helping and delivering hand]. AMP
 - b. Look at almost every time someone encounter's God in the Old Testament they are indelible affected.
 - (1) Cain carried his mark to his death.
 - (2) Jacob walked with a limp all his life.
 - (3) Moses face shone and frightened the people.
 - (4) People fell down before Him.
 - (5) Isaiah said, Woe is me.
 - (6) Ezekiel and Daniel had no strength left in them. Da 10:8 Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to

frailty in me, and I retained no strength. See also Eze. 1:28

- c. Re 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.
 - d. When they came to arrest Jesus in John 19:6b Jesus asked them, "Whom are you seeking?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." . . . 6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.
 - e. How do you wrap that power in a baby?
- B. How do you combine the mortal and the immortal?
 - C. How do you unite the finite and the infinite.
 - D. But God did it, all for us, that He might bring many sons to glory.
 - 1. Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
 - E. Search all of human history and find me a case where a king ever abandoned his throne for those who would put him to death.
 - F. Rom 5:6-11 6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. NKJV

The Nativity scene tells the story. There God put on flesh. Accomplishing the seeming incomprehensible in order to purchase our pardon and demonstrate His love for us. A simple birth brings to reality the greatest scheme ever devised, a plan to save mankind from sin, themselves and rescue them from the snare of the devil.

What wondrous love is this.