

The Paradox of Christmas
His Birth - Untimely yet Predestined
Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Many a baby has come into this world unexpected. Jesus was such a child. It was not in Mary or Joseph's plan to have a child before they were married.

But it was a part of God's plan from before the world was ever made.

God created this world perfect, yet through Satan tempting Eve and Eve persuading Adam, the whole world was plunged into sin and death, the result of sin.

Ever since this world has been a place of suffering, disappointment, despair and finally death.

Now you say that is not a very good picture for a pastor to paint.

Well the good news is that God intended to bring a Savior into the world.

Since God knows all things, then He knew that man would fall and that suffering would be a part of our lives.

So God also planned to send His Son, and He did that before the world was ever created.

Heb 13:20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 1:18-21 (NKJV) 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21

who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

You see when God determines to do something, He does not need to wait to see how it will work out. He knows the end from the beginning. Therefore

Re 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3 but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;