

Saturday, December 24, 2011—To Earth and Back Again: The Incarnation and the Eternal Purpose of God

Introduction

- Two weeks ago at the Christmas program we focused on the Christmas story from an evangelistic standpoint. Our goal was to use the story Christ's birth to present the gospel. If you recall we did that from the point of view of the Angels.
 - Luke 1:26-38—the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to give birth to the Son of God. The Child that Mary will conceive in her womb will be the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6-7 (721)
 - shall be called the Son of the Highest,
 - will be given the throne of his father David,
 - will reign over the house of Jacob
 - His kingdom will never end
 - Luke 1:34-37—Gabriel explains to Mary how her baby can be the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 (719) even though she has never known a man.
 - The Child that will be conceived in her womb will be of the Holy Ghost.
 - The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee
 - The child that will be born will be the son of God.
 - Luke 2:8-15—the angels also announced the birth of Christ the evening he was born.
 - Hebrews 2:9-11, 14-17 (1293)—Jesus Christ was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. The reason the Son of God came in the flesh was to taste death for every man. To die in our place so that we would not have to.

From Old From Everlasting

- Luke 2:1-7—that night in Bethlehem Mary wrapped the Son of God in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.
- Micah 5:2—the child was born in Bethlehem but the “Son of God” was “from everlasting.” Jesus Christ, God the Son, was preexistent the beginning of all things.
- Genesis 1:1—who is responsible for the creation of all things? God. Therefore, who had to exist before the being? God. God is the uncaused cause. Asking the question of who made God is like where is the bachelor's wife.
- John 1:1-3—who else was present at the beginning in Genesis 1:1? The Word. Who is the Word? The Word is God. All things were made by him i.e., the Word and without him not could have been made.

- Colossians 1:15-19—all things in heaven and earth were created by Jesus Christ (the Word) and for Jesus Christ. Notice that in verse 17 Christ was before all things. In other words Jesus Christ existed in eternity before the beginning. Not only was Jesus Christ before all things by but him all things consist.
- The Greek word translated “consist” carries the following meanings according to *Strong’s Concordance*: 1) to place together, to set in the same place, **to bring or band together**, 2) to set one with another, 3) **to put together by way of composition or combination**, to teach by combining and comparing, 4) to put together, **unite parts into one whole**.
- The English word “consist” carries the following meaning according to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*: “to stand together; to be in a fixed or permanent state, as a body composed of parts in union or connection. Hence, to be; to exist; to subsist; to be supported and maintained.”
- According to Colossians 1:17 Christ was before all things and by Christ all things consist, i.e., band together, are united into a whole, stand together in a fixed or permanent state, are supported and maintained. In other words, Christ holds all things together.
- Have you ever heard of Laminin? Laminin is the cell adhesion molecule that holds the cells in your body together. Laminin is the glue as it were that keeps or holds everything together. Without Laminin molecules our bodies would not be able to maintain their shape.
- Philippians 2:5-8—Jesus Christ was literally in the form of God. He preexisted the beginning. He was with God and was God at the beginning. He created all things in heaven and earth by the word of His power. Yet he laid aside this place of privilege to take the form of servant and be made in the likeness of men for the purpose of enduring the death of the cross.
- John 1:14—this is the true identity of the word that was made flesh and dwelt among us.
- Luke 2:6-7—the cries of this baby that Mary comforted where from the same voice that said let there be light.

God’s Elect

- Isaiah 42:1—Jesus Christ was God’s elect. He was the one through whom the provision for the salvation of mankind would be provided.
- Revelation 13:8—before the beginning, before the foundation of the earth was laid the Godhead has determined in an eternal life conference that the Word would die to pay the price for our sins.
- Acts 2:22-23—the Godhead determined that one of them would die to make provision for our sins. This why the Word was made flesh for the purpose of fulfilling the eternal purpose of God. This is why Jesus took part or flesh and blood so that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, i.e., the devil.

- Acts 3:18-21—all the things pertaining to the suffering of Christ had been made known by the mouth of the prophets since the world began. As of Acts 1, Jesus Christ had ascended back to heaven which was required “until the times of restitution of all things which God had spoken by the mouth of his holy prophets since the world began.”

The Head of the Body

- Ephesians 1:20-23—the Word that Israel rejected has been seated at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places far above all principalities, powers, mights, and dominions and every name that is named. All things have been placed under his feet and authority and Immanuel has become the Head over all things to the church.
- Philippians 2:9-11
- Colossians 1:18-20—this was done so that in all things in heaven and on earth Christ might have the preeminence. Through the blood of Christ’s cross all things in heaven and earth are going to be reconciled back to God.
- Ephesians 3:8-11—the information Paul is speaking about is part of the mystery which from the beginning of world was hid in God who created all things by Jesus Christ. This was all part of the eternal purpose of God which he purposed in Christ. The Godhead sat down and worked out a plan some of which he revealed and some of which they kept secret. The purpose of this plan was to bring ultimate glory and preeminence to the key figure in the outworking of this plan the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 1:9-11—the eternal purpose of God is to center all things in heaven and on earth in the person of Jesus Christ. From the viewpoint of eternity there was a lot on the line that night Mary wrapped the Word in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.
- Ephesians 2:4-7—as members of the Body of Christ we have been raised up and seated with the exalted head and heir of all things in heavenly places. And it is from this heavenly vantage point that Christ intends to spend the Ages to Come or the rest of eternity as it were showing us the exceeding riches of Grace and his kindness toward us.