**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2017**

**What’s the Big Deal About Christmas?**

**Kids – presents**

**retail stores – sales**

**radio stations – Christmas carols**

**Christmas traditions – Christmas trees, decorations, lights, and being with family, Christmas dinner**

**All those things are enjoyable and are considered to be a big deal with most people, but what is THE BIG DEAL about Christmas? It is the centerpiece of human history.**

**GOD CAME TO EARTH TO SAVE MANKIND!**

**Many call this, “The Reason for the Season”**

**He was born of a virgin and is known as the LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Did He exist before birth? (Pre-Incarnation)**

***John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2. He was in the beginning with God.*** ***3, All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.***

***John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.***

***John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.***

***Colossians 1:16-17 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.***

***Hebrews 1:10 And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Thy hands;***

***Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."***

**THE OF BIRTH PROPHESIED**

***Micah 5:2 " But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."***

***Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7) There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.***

**WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

**Mode of birth – Incarnation**

***IN•CAR•NA•TION noun (14th century)***

***1 (1) : the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form***

 ***(2) capitalized : the union of divinity with humanity in Jesus Christ***

**The theological term for this is the Hypostatic Union. Hypostatic comes from the word found in *Heb. 1:3:***

**HUPOSTASIS (ὑπόστασις) n. gsf, ① the essential or basic structure/nature of an entity, substantial nature, essence, actual being, reality**

**Jesus Christ is one hundred percent true humanity and true deity united in one Person forever.**

**NASV *Hebrews 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.***

**NIV *Heb. 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.***

***Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power***

**Our Lord’s conception and birth was also unique because He was born of a virgin.**

***Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God*.**

**Why was it absolutely imperative that Christ be born of a virgin?**

**If He wasn’t born of a virgin, He would be born spiritually dead due to Adam’s sin and also have an OSN which is passed down from Adam. This would disqualify Him from being our Savior because a condemned man cannot save others.**

***Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."***

***Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.***

***Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."***

**He couldn't have died for your sin, if he were a sinner, he would have had to die for his own sins.**

**Unfortunately, there are those who reject the truth of God’s Word and try to influence others to reject it as well.**

***“Several years ago the cover of U.S. News and World Report featured an article entitled "Who was Jesus?" And in the pages of that article, you read about a self-appointed team of theological revisionists called the Jesus Seminar, and they got together and pooled their collective ignorance, and presented to America the liberal progressive view of who Jesus is. They say that Jesus Christ was an illiterate peasant. He did not preach salvation from sin, and he certainly did not preach the Sermon on the Mount and some 80 to 90% of the words in red that are attributed to him in the Gospels. There were no miracles. He certainly was not conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and therefore not God. He was executed as an insurrectionist by Rome and his body was eaten by wild dogs. There was no resurrection. Doesn’t that Bless you?***

***But this is the Jesus that many progressive professors in universities and even seminaries are presenting to students. Paul's statement in Roman's 1:22 comes to mind: "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."***

***2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But even if (since) our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4) whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.***

***If Jesus Christ was not virgin born, Mary was little more than a harlot and a liar. And worse than that, God's character is then called into question because His Angel Gabriel said that she was favored of God. But not only will you have difficulty with the character of the Bible, the character of Mary, and the character of God, you're especially going to have difficulty with the character of Jesus. If Jesus was not conceived of the Spirit and born of a virgin, then not only was he born of an illicit sexual union, but he was a child of Adam, a sinner like the rest of us. So if that is true, Jesus was a sinner like everybody else and He was not the spotless, sinless Son of God, then he could not offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin. And because he could not have been God, He could not save us from sin.***

**A recent Barna Poll found that 75 percent of Americans believe the Virgin Birth, including 15 percent of atheists.**

**One would think that the God of the universe who created everything would come into the world in the most ostentatious and flamboyant manner.**