

Messiah's Birth: The Most Pivotal Event in Human History

Passage: "After having spoken many times and in many ways to our fathers by the prophets, in these last times, G-d has spoken to us by the Son, whom He has established the heir to all things and by whom He has created the universe. The Son is the reflection of G-d's glory and the exact imprint of G-d's very being and He upholds everything by His powerful Word. He made purification for sins and is seated at the right hand of the divine majesty in the highest places." (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Last week, I talked about the 25 being date for Christmas and how many of its observances have tried to remove our Saviour as the only reason for the season. We are free to observe this festival or to completely ignore it as long as we do not judge each other when we act according to our conscience and our convictions.

That having been said, whenever you think this amazing event occurred, our Messiah's birth is the most pivotal event in human history, because the Creator Himself came down and tabernacled among us in the flesh which was conceived in Mary's womb. We understand that our G-d is the only true G-d and that there is no G-d beside Him. There was no G-d created before Him and there shall be no G-d created after Him. He exists eternally and does not resemble any of the foolish pagan gods which the nations have devised at various times in human history. He is unique and changeless.

He has been described with four main adjectives. He is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (everywhere present) and immutable (forever changeless). When He is described in the Bible, a particular word speaks of His unique nature – He is echad – a plural singularity or a composite unity. His oneness exists in three inseparable, distinct persons, whom the Bible describes as the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. To deny His triune nature is to contradict and violate the clear teachings of the Scriptures. It is not a later doctrine which was subsequently imposed on the Bible.

Hebrews chapter one speaks about the Son as the final, perfect message from the Father, whose arrival the prophets spoke of, because the birth of the Messiah is the most pivotal event in human history. Our father Adam and our mother Eve, succumbed to the wiles of the evil one and were excluded from the garden to prevent them from eating from the tree of life and becoming eternally sinful, with no hope of redemption.

We have been on a generational pilgrimage in search of redemption and this is the major theme in all religions, even though they have some weird and not so wonderful ideas about how this redemption should occur. G-d is never dependant on any person or persons to explain Himself and He certainly does not need any counsel as to how to go about achieving the redemption which would open the way home for us.

I am constantly amazed at both the incredible variety of details and legends which both ancient and recent religions have generated and the similarity in basic themes which all religions possess. When He scattered our people at Babel, the Bible says that G-d built His Word into the languages and cultures of the people He scattered and all major religions have six main themes – no more and, effectively, no less.

First of all, there is a creation, then there is a fall. In many religions there is also a flood or a scattering where mankind survived annihilation and spread out over the planet. Then there is a redemptive event which restores what the fall lost. There is also a concept of life after death and an understanding that there will one day be an end of the world. Finally, there is a series of moral and spiritual duties which are necessary for the faithful to practice in order for them to connect with the redemption which was one for them.

The diseased imagination of mankind has infected these core concepts with all kinds of idolatry and fornication, but these core pillars of human society have never really been overthrown, but not for lack of trying. The grass roots have not yet been uprooted!

Christmas celebrates the divine intervention of our triune G-d into the affairs of mankind, to pay the price for the redemption which was lost and to offer it freely to all mankind, because each of us and all of us are well beloved before our Father. He wants to wean us away from the paganism which is once again infecting our darkening world and bring us back to the truths of His Word, where our true redemption is outlined so clearly.

He came as a helpless babe and His first task was to grow up and not succumb to the infection of sin which has been ravaging our world for too long. He did not access any of the prerogatives of His deity and it was as a simple human being that he confronted our three worst enemies: the flesh, the world and the enemy. His identity was hidden from the adversary until He was ready for this mighty spiritual challenge and Luke records that by around the age of twelve, He was aware of His calling and understood how He was to go about winning salvation for all the nations and generations of mankind.

He confronted the enemy in the wilderness and defeated the one who had defeated our ancestors in the splendor of the Garden. He overcame the flesh, the world and the enemy and He set about training disciples as He moved towards His final mighty redemptive challenge. Once His disciples acknowledge Him, He turned His face towards Jerusalem and was betrayed so that He could suffer and die on the cross to pay the price for the salvation of mankind. He brought eternal victory with Him when He rose from the dead and in every generation of believers, we have been sent for to the ends of the earth with this message of G-d's eternal love.

We have faced persecution and have suffered many setbacks – one of the worst being, when the Gentile church turned on Messianic Jewish believers and began the relentless persecution of our Jewish people which is still going on today.

Well, how do we, as Messianic Jews and Gentiles, relate to both our mandate to share the good news of the babe who was born in the manger, and to the rising opposition this message is encountering as people are increasingly challenging the truth of G-d's Word?

Allow me to suggest at least four things, before we close and descend on the cakes which are waiting for us.

First of all, we need to understand that we do not need anyone's permission in order to believe what the Scriptures have been teaching for thousands of years. At various times in our long history as Jewish and Gentile believers we have encountered resistance in the form of persecution that frequently involved suffering martyrdom because people did not like our message. That has always been their problem and never ours.

We have never been called to respond in kind. Our call is to love our enemies and our neighbours and to sanctify the L-rd in our hearts and give a meek and respectful answer to those who ask us the reason for the hope which is in us. Last week I talked about establishing a dialogue as we share our faith and avoid arguments and accusations, even when these are flung at us. We are lovers and not fighters.

Our world is hostile to what we believe because we refuse to cave in to the nonsense of the evolutionary gobbledegook which so many have fallen for. The world is increasingly hostile to how we live because we adhere firmly to a biblical spiritual morality that is not going to be bullied into submission by the politically correct bullies who require absolute inclusion of everyone, even though they themselves do not believe in any absolutes!

We should expect resistance and opposition and while we do not need anyone's permission to adopt a biblical worldview and a scriptural lifestyle, we will not resort to any of the cheap shots which are directed at us. We wish no one any harm and we will harm no one and we will freely discuss and dialogue with respect or not at all.

Thirdly, we will protect our children and other vulnerable members of our community and not let any hostility to our message of love separate us from the ones who G-d has entrusted to our care. People may call us names and make all kinds of ludicrous accusations against us, but we will continue to love and cherish our children and teach them the truths which will set them free to walk in love with our Messiah who was born in a manger so long ago. It is not wrong to believe that we are right and that others are wrong, but it is always wrong to treat them wrongly.

Also, we are not hostile to any of the scientific advances that have been made in so many realms of human activity. We do not live in the dark ages and are not at war with our modern world. The Bible does not teach that the earth is flat and the creation accounts speak to a one-time marvellous creation that happened in less than the twinkling of an eye. We live in a universe governed by orderly principles, where the only chaos is between the ears of those who do not acknowledge the G-d of the Bible.

If the truth be told, modern science has unearthed more questions than answers about the origin and direction of creation and is no closer to discovering the hidden secrets the universe is supposedly hiding from us and waiting for us to unearth.

This being said, medical science has made amazing strides and so many deadly diseases have been conquered and brought under control. Food production has actually bypassed population growth and most of the world's hunger lingers only where civil war and oppressive regimes disrupt the aid which the world community is now so willing to extend. We have made so many strides in communication and transportation, and we are living in a golden age of education where human knowledge is said to double every few years.

The downside to this is that there has been a wholesale rejection of a biblical worldview and those of us who still adhere to this amazing heritage are viewed with suspicion as if we were ignorant little children who did not know any better. We need to continue not to let our society demonize us and we should never be afraid to speak up and speak out. But we should never go on the defensive because the objective truths of G-d's Word are reflected throughout the cosmos, from the smallest particle to the endless galaxies that swirl through space.

We neither believe that everyone believes a different version of the same truth, nor do we believe that everybody is wrong and there is no way of knowing what is finally true. At the right place, in the right time, G-d intervened and walked among us to do for all mankind what Adam and Eve were unable to do. He did not concern Himself with the lesser issues which philosophers and sages like to wrangle over. He did not reveal the profound secrets about creation which so many mystics are trying to discover.

He lived a simple, holy life and then when the time was right, He boldly advanced and died on the cross for the sins of the world and there is only one more chapter which relates to the most pivotal event in human history which this holiday is supposed to celebrate. When He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, He promised that one day He would return and inaugurate the everlasting kingdom of G-d in a new heavens and on a new earth. He will then invite all the nations of generations of mankind to pass before Him to be judged according to the truths of their hearts.

When I say invite, I do not mean He will give any of us a choice whether or not to be judged. He will simply cut through all the cosmic red tape and excuses and rationalizations and reveal the inner, deep truths which are either enshrined in people's hearts or are buried so deep that some people foolishly believed they have gotten rid of them.

Christmas is always kind of a shocker which annually disrupts people's lives, but the same Babe who came on Christmas so long ago, will appear once again and eternally disrupt the lives of all the nations and generations of mankind. What will He find in your heart when He comes to bring everything to light and judge the thoughts and intents of men's hearts? May your personal relationship with the Messiah be the most pivotal event in your life, both at this season and for the rest of the year, for the rest of your life!