

The Incarnation: Invasion and Intervention.

Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2:1-7

Sunday, December 27, 2009.

“She brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7.

What is the significance of these words to human history?

What significance do these words, and this event, have for us, some 2000 years later?

We need to consider two aspects of this event to grasp its significance for us today and for our future.

I. The significance of the Person: The Invasion.

- A. In so many ways this was the birth of an ordinary child to ordinary parents in the midst of the hardships and struggles of human life in a fallen world.
- B. Yet the backdrop given to us in both Matthew and Luke shows us that this was no ordinary child and no ordinary birth.
 1. This was God Himself invading the human race, and human history.
 2. This was God Himself, in the Person of His Son, taking to Himself a true human nature from the substance, the DNA, of Mary, for “He was born of a woman...” Gal.4:4.
 3. This was God Himself, in the Person of His Son, and in His divine nature joining Himself to the human nature of Mary, and a doing so by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is the reason why this child was not only “born of a woman,” but He was also called “Son of the Highest” and “Son of God.” Luke 1:32 and 35.
 4. The divine and human natures of Christ were not contradictory toward each other; they were compatible for man was made in the image of God.
 - All contrariness toward God in man’s nature is because of sin. Christ took upon Himself our human nature, yet without sin Hebrews 4:15. That is also the reason why the Lord Jesus is called “the Holy One” in our text in Luke 1:35.
 - The compatibility of the human and divine natures is also the ground of our fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ; in the work of regeneration we become the partakers of the divine nature by virtue of the Holy Spirit’s taking up residence in our hearts. 2 Peter 1:4.
 5. The divine and human natures of Christ enjoyed a co-existence that was without:
 - Conversion. Never did the one nature turn into the other; they did not change back and forth.
 - Composition. Neither one of the natures are a blend of human and divine elements.
 - Contradiction. The natures are compatible; not contradictory.
 - Confusion. They do not lead to an identity crisis in the Person of our

Lord.

6. It was according to the virtues and the value of both natures that the Lord Jesus undertook the work of our redemption.
7. All heresies pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ do violence to either His human or His divine natures; separating them; inflating one and devaluating the other.

II. The significance of His work: The Intervention.

- A. He came to intervene in the darkness of ignorance that beclouded our understanding. As such He is represented as the Light and the Word in John's gospel ch.1. He is the fountainhead of all true intelligence and of all understanding. He came to reveal the mind of God toward us. As such "The fear of the Lord (or a right disposition toward, or relationship with, the Lord) is the beginning of wisdom." Proverbs 1:7.
 1. Conversion is the work of the God who intervenes, and it begins in the mind; in the understanding when God turns the lights on.
 2. The darkened, unregenerate mind of man uses logic, and logical reasoning to oppose the existence of God, and to suppress his knowledge.
 3. The regenerate mind understands that God is the only justification for the existence of logic.
"In Your light we see light." Psalm 36:9.
 4. The fact that we can reason at all is only because God has clothed all things in reasonableness. This is the divine imprint on all things, from the smallest to the greatest structures in the universe.
- B. He came to intervene in the guilt of sin that separated us from God. By His once for all sacrifice of Himself on the cross, He satisfied the divine justice and reconciled us to God.
"You who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace..." Ephesians 2:13,14.
Because of the intervention of Christ on our behalf a restored fellowship with God is offered to us freely in the gospel.
That is why Joseph was told by the angel to call His name Jesus (Savior), "for He will save His people from their sin." Matthew 1:21.
- C. He came to intervene in the course of history.
 1. Sin had hijacked the course of history away from the Lord. Man in his fallen state declared himself the master of his own destiny; he declared Himself autonomous; independent.
 2. Look what is said of the Christ-child here by Luke: "And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:32,33.
 3. This is why there is an ascension to the throne on high; this is why there is a coming again with the clouds of glory to finish up what is as yet unfinished.
 4. Where do you stand with the intellect and the desires, and the will of your soul in relation to this Jesus?