

THE BIRTH OF THE KING Matthew 1:18-25

No one else in the history of the world is conceived by the Spirit and born of a virgin mother. Therefore, Jesus alone qualifies to be Savior.

-Bruce Ware

I. A Difficult Situation

II. A Unique Child

III. A Promise Fulfilled

Getting to Know You

1. What is the most amazing fact you know?

Into the Bible

2. In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul refers to the birth of Christ as occurring “when the fullness of time had come”. What are some of the factors that came together to make this such a very good time for Jesus to be born and start his earthly ministry?

3. Matthew records two of the names given to the son born to Mary—Immanuel and Jesus. Both of these are significant in describing who he was to be. How many other names or titles can you think of for Jesus recorded in the New Testament and the Old Testament? What do they tell us about his character and ministry? Isaiah 9:6 is a good place to start. (Hint: by some counts there are more than 300, so don't try to list them all!)

4. Think back to last week's message. Ahaz was one of the very wicked kings. Skim through 2 Chronicles 29. What are some of the evil things that he did? Yet God gave one of the great prophecies about the birth of Messiah to him. How did the sign of the Messiah's birth represent God's faithfulness to his covenant people even when they were unfaithful?

Application

5. Mary and Joseph both faced significant issues in their community due to her pregnancy. Why do we often find it so difficult to do what God asks of us when it costs us the disapproval of our family, neighbors, coworkers, etc.? How can we overcome our resistance to putting our reputation on the line to obey God?

For Families

6. How do you suppose you would react if an angel appeared to you with a message that seems hard to believe? Talk with your children about what they would do if an angel appeared to them.