The Birth of Christ

Ken Chapman · Acts 13:26–33

INTRODUCTION

- Today throughout the world, Christians are celebrating his birth.
- As we would expect from such a momentous miraculous occasion in human history that it did not come without announcement.
- I wanted to talk to you not about the birth of Jesus, which was the human name of the form that deity took when he came upon this earth, but about the birth of Christ.

1 The Birth of Christ Was His Resurrection

Acts 13:26–33; Luke 24:1

- In the New Testament, the birth of Christ has nothing to do with the incarnation, but has everything to do with the resurrection.
- God has fulfilled this for us, their children, in that he has raised up Jesus. As also is written in the second Psalm, you are my son, today I have begotten you.
- You are my son. Today I have begotten you, refers to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- It was the first day of the week that he was begotten from the grave. Surely this is the reason that it's called the Lord's day.

2 This Birth Was Prophesied in the Old Testament

Psalm 2:7–9; Psalm 16:9–10

- Psalm 2, the seventh verse says, I will declare the decree. The Lord has said to me, You are my son. Today I have begotten you.
- The psalmist in Psalm 2 prophesies of the birth of Christ, but as pointed out in Acts chapter 13, this was a prophecy of his resurrection.
- For you will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption.
- This birth, the birth that declared him to be the Son of God, his resurrection, it was prophesied in the Old Testament.

3 This Birth Was Heralded by Angels

Luke 24:4–7; Revelation 5

- Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.
- This birth, the resurrection, was heralded by angels. It was angels that said, He is not here, he is risen.
- It was those angels and those elders and the living creatures in heaven that sang in the chorus, Worthy is the Lamb after his resurrection.

4 Mary Was Extremely Surprised

John 20:11–16

- Mary, the first to learn of this birth, was extremely surprised by these events. Not Mary, the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene.
- She thought the body of Jesus had been stolen, but had to be reminded that Jesus had prophesied, as the Old Testament prophets had, that death could not keep its hold on him.
- It seems so fitting that she's the first one that though she was surprised by the events surrounding his birth, that she was the first to hear that he is not here, but he is risen.

5 Joseph Plays a Minor Role

John 19:38–40

- Not Joseph who was betrothed to be married to Mary, but Joseph of Arimathea.
- Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take the body of Jesus,.
- Joseph who wrapped him in these clothes, not the swaddling clothes of a newborn babe, but in the clothes for burial.

6 Far From What They Expected: The Firstborn From the Dead

Luke 24:25–26; Psalm 89:20–27; Colossians 1:15–18

- The prophecy of this birth, of his resurrection, was tied to the prophecy of his death and humiliation.
- Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into glory.
- It was not the baby in swaddling clothes that washed away our sins. It was the crucified man. And it was the empty tomb. That gives us hope.
- What the word firstborn means, it means not birth order, but it means preeminence. It's a position of power and authority and of might.
- And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead. That in all things he might have the preeminence.
- And he has this position because, Colossians 1 verse 18 tells us, because of his resurrection.

THE CHALLENGE

Do you have that hope this morning? The hope that you will be raised from the dead to live eternally. Have you been raised from the death of your sins? Why not die to sin this morning and be buried with Him in baptism?

MY NOTES