

LENEXA EDIFIER

“and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

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Because Jesus was Born

Doy Moyer

“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons” (Gal 4:4-5).

While the Gospels of Matthew and Luke give considerable space to the birth of Jesus and the surrounding events, the rest of the New Testament shows us what His coming into this world really means. He came into this world not merely to be born and be a man, but with a greater purpose of bringing redemption and salvation. Both Matthew and Luke highlight this purpose.

Paul points out in **Galatians 4** that Jesus was born at the right time and with great purpose. The phrase, *“born of a woman,”* may seem obvious as a physical fact, but I believe it underlines the connection back to **Genesis 3:15** where the promise was made to the woman that her seed would bruise the head of the serpent (a fatal strike). In other words, as John would put it, *“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)*. The Hebrews writer shows that Jesus partook of flesh and blood *“that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives” (Heb 2:14-15)*. The serpent’s head is crushed by the Seed of woman who also is the one true Seed of Abraham (**Gal 3:15-18**).

Though Jesus was *“born under the Law,”* His purpose was to fulfill the Law (**Matt 5:17**) and thereby *“redeem those who were under the Law.”* The Law could not do what Jesus came to do. The Law accomplished what God intended for it, but it was never meant to be the end goal of God’s plans. It was a vehicle through which God would bring about the ultimate fulfillment of His plan in the Son (**cf. Gal 3:23-25**). This would make it possible, then, that those who are in Christ would be set

free from sin and death:

“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh...” (Rom 8:1-3).

Because Jesus was born into this world to die and rise again, we can live confidently in Him knowing that there is no condemnation. We are forgiven, redeemed, and sanctified unto Him. *“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom 8:11).*

Further, because Jesus was born, Paul writes, we may *“receive the adoption as sons” (Gal 4:5)*. Salvation is more than forgiveness of sin. It is more than being spared from condemnation. Salvation is a complete change of status. We are adopted into God’s family with all of its rights of inheritance. *“Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God” (Gal 4:6-7).*

“Abba, Father!” is the cry of sonship. It is what Jesus cried out in the garden as He yielded Himself to the will of the Father in going to the cross (**Mark 14:36**). Because Jesus did this, we become God’s children in a special way that will provide the inheritance of life. We have been *“born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you...” (1 Peter 1:3-4)*. Because Jesus was born, we may be born again to hope, life, and the inheritance that belongs to the children of God. *“See how great a love the Father has*

bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are” (1 John 3:1).

When Mary was expecting, she praised God for His mercy which is *“upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him” (Luke 1:50)*. Because Jesus was born, we are the recipients of His great mercy shown throughout the generations. We receive salvation and redemption by His grace, and more, we receive the adoption as sons and the grand inheritance provided by Him. The blessing of being able to cry out, *“Abba, Father!”* is beyond words.

Thank God for His great gift of Jesus, the true Seed *“born of a woman”* to redeem us all from the curse of sin and provide the means of adoption through which we become God’s heirs!

SINCERITY

Jim Stauffer

Jesus openly declared Himself to be a man of the truth (**John 14:6; 18:36,37**). He further declared the word of God to be the truth (**John 17:17**). When Jesus taught the woman at the well in Samaria He emphasized the nearness of the day when truth would be imperative in worship. *“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23–24)* The purity of truth is emphasized by Peter, *“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*

(1 Peter 1:22–23) Notice how the truth purifies and provides sincerity. Now this makes it clear to us when we are born again it is of the enduring word of God, which is the truth that we have obeyed. The obvious conclusion is that if I believe the word of God to be true as He says it is, I must be less than sincere in my action if I willingly disobey that word.

There are many things in the religious world that are practiced contradictory to Scripture. I would assume some of those are due to ignorance of what Scripture teaches. But it is also true that some of those things are practiced knowingly in violation of what His word

says.

I recently spoke with a lady who worships at one of the popular denominations in our city. We were in a general discussion of the Bible and the value of in depth study of it and the growth it brings. In the course of our discussion she mentioned the difficulty they had finding men to teach the adult class where she worships. In fact when they could find no men to teach they requested she teach the class since she was a good student of the Scripture. Obviously there are many men in this class. She lamented the fact she was teaching the class since the Bible speaks so clearly a woman should not teach over men. *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet (1 Timothy 2:11–12). The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. (1 Corinthians 14:34)*

I pointed out we often faced similar difficulties in the church but we would never under any conditions allow a woman to usurp the authority of men. We would honor the Scripture even if the same man of necessity taught the class always.

When we consider the use of the word sincerity in Scripture, such synonyms as pure and genuine are frequently used to explain its meaning. It is not pure or sincere to serve the Lord knowing you do so in violation of His direct teaching. This indicates we never obeyed the true, living and enduring word of God in the first place or have deviated from it at a later point.

Is the logic of our point so difficult that many cannot understand? Of course not! It is as God instructed Isaiah to say about Israel, *He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.’ “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.” (Isaiah 6:9–10)* It is apparent that even those we know to be diligent in their worship often feel they can still please God while practicing the ideas of men in their service to Him.

Was this not the very principle Jesus invoked in when He said, *“BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF*

MEN.” (Matthew 15:9) Be sure you understand Jesus did not condemn their attitude when they worshiped, but rather the source of the authority of those things they practiced. Jesus was always God and remains God with all authority in heaven and earth. He has been elevated to the right hand of the Father and given authority over all rule and has been made head over all things to the church (**Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23**).

I ask you, “Are you sincere in your worship of God?” The answer is found in the purity of your response to the enduring word of God, the truth.

OUT OF EGYPT

“When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son” (Hosea 11:1 NASV). The love of a father is a wonderful blessing. A father can bless, encourage, and guide the child in good and productive ways. Yet, some fathers may be too busy to actively direct the lives of their children; they may be indulgent to make up for their lack of true involvement. Some fathers may be too stringent as they rule with an iron fist of coercion and threats, forcing the child into obedience.

Israel was rescued out of Egyptian bondage by a God of love. Their status as God’s chosen people had nothing to do with might, wealth, or wisdom. While it was God’s plan for His people to be in Egypt however horrific their plight was, providence looked over them. God heard their cries; He remembered His promise to their fathers, Abraham, Issac, and Jacob (**Exodus 2:24-25**). God called Israel over and over; they continued in their idolatry. He took them in His arms; they refused His loving embrace. The yoke of bondage was lifted. No longer would they eat onions and garlic; the land of milk and honey was in sight.

Hosea spoke of bondage in Egypt several times (**7:16; 8:13**), as a warning to God’s people. If they did not repent they would return to Egypt; not literally, but they would be judged. In this case, a foreign nation, the Assyrians were close by (**9:3; 10:6**). When God’s own people refuse (refused) to listen, the result can only be judgment from heaven. Israel did go into captivity; they were amply warned; God’s judgments are not arbitrary or capricious.

Hosea 11:1 is quoted in **Matthew 2:15**. *“He stayed there until the death of Herod; this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”* The wicked Herod sought the destruction of Jesus, believing that the wholesale killing of male babies would accomplish his jealous goals. A massacre ensued and a great cry of anguish filled the land. Yet, the child Jesus was safe.

Pharaoh, in fear of Israel’s increasing numbers, killed the baby boys of the Hebrews, drowning them in the Nile. Yet, Pharaoh could not thwart God’s plan to bring His people out of bondage and take them to the Promise Land. There they would grow and persevere, and eventually, the promises of God would be fully realized. **Hosea 11:1** is not necessarily a prophecy about Jesus. Hosea is reminding Israel about the repeated attempts God made to rescue them. Matthew appropriates the passage, applying it to a similar situation—this time, in connection with Herod’s desire to kill Jesus. God protected Israel (His own son **Exodus 4:22-23**) from famine by putting them in Egypt; but He did not leave them there. God preserved His Son when Joseph and Mary and Jesus went to Egypt to escape Herod’s clutches. He did not leave them there.

What is Hosea saying? He is reminding Israel that God loved them and wanted them to come back in repentance and faithfulness. He is saying: You have lived in Egypt long enough. You have rebelled often. Still, God loves you and wants you to come home. If Hosea was broken hearted over Gomer’s unfaithfulness, how much more is the infinite God of heaven grieved when we sin. But He still calls us, wherever we are.

Randy Harshbarger

STUDY THE BIBLE

Does the Bible teach us there will be many different religions that all please God and Christ?

Let us search through the Scriptures and see.

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Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10