

# The Most Important Question

## “Where Is He?”

### Matthew 2:1-2

On Christmas morning a little girl was downstairs opening her packages before anyone else was out of bed. To her parents surprise they heard her singing the “Happy Birthday” song. They thought she was confused as to the occasion. But as she sang on, they realized that it was they who had been confused. “Happy birthday, dear Jesus,” she sang, “Happy birthday to You.”

These wise men (astronomers, among other things) saw the star and with the Messianic expectancy always in the mind and hearts of the Jew, the whole world was waiting.

There was once a poor drunkard who wakened one morning in a strange kind of bed, feeling something near him warm and soft. Finally, it dawned on him that he was in a stable close beside a cow. He laughed grimly as he thought of breakfast. In his mind he went over those who might be persuaded to help him with a meal. “No, I can't ask any of them: they would say I have fallen too low.” Then he heard the bells ringing, and began to realize it was Christmas day. “What was that story about the shepherds - the angels - and a manger?”

“Maybe the reason He slept in a manger was so He could help a fellow like me, a fellow too low for anyone else to help.” There and then the poor outcast knelt and prayed the prayer of the publican, “God be merciful to me a sinner.”

## **I. IN THE MANGER - GAL. 4:4, 5**

There are many today that still have Jesus as a baby in a manger – He’s nothing more than a story.

Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

<sup>5</sup> To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

### **A. He Was Born in the Fullness of Time – Mark 1:15; Eph. 1:10**

Mark 1:15

<sup>15</sup> And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Ephesians 1:10

<sup>10</sup> That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

### **B. He Was Born of Woman - human form – Isa. 7:14 cf. Matt. 1:18; Phil. 2:7**

Isaiah 7:14

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-23

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Philippians 2:7

<sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**C. He Was Born Under the Law – Rom. 3:20; 8:3; Gal. 3:19-24**

Romans 3:20

<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 8:3

<sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Galatians 3:19–24

<sup>19</sup> Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

<sup>20</sup> Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

<sup>21</sup> Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

<sup>22</sup> But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

<sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

<sup>24</sup> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

***D. He Was Born to Redeem Those Under the Law – Gal. 3:13, 14; Tit. 2:14***

Not only was He “made of a woman,” but He was “made under the law.” The word “made” in this verse is a word that means to come into existence, or simply to be born, to begin to be. He was born under the Old Testament Levitical Law, the Dispensation of Law, as it is called, and bound to following its dictates. The reason He was born under the Old Covenant, or dispensation, is given in (Galatians 4) verse five: “to redeem them that were under the law.” The Greek word translated “redeem” in this verse is not the word usually used to denote redemption as it is taught in the Bible. The word usually used is one that would be translated, literally, “ransom,” and it denotes a buying back something that was once possessed by the one doing the ransoming. This word used here is also used in chapter three and verse thirteen, and in Eph. 5:16, and Col. 4:5, where it is used in the phrase “redeeming the time.” The aspect of ransom is not seen here as much as the payment made for the purchase. The fact that lost man is considered “lost” to God (having been once His by creation) because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden is not the main emphasis here, as it is in the word “ransom,” but rather the fact that a price must be paid in order to purchase man’s freedom from the bondage of sin and the curse of the law.

**Galatians 3:13–14**

**13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

**14** That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

#### Titus 2:14

**14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

A poor little street girl was taken ill one Christmas and was carried to the hospital. While there she heard the story of Jesus coming into the world to save us. One day she whispered to the nurse: "I'm having real good times here. S'pose I'll have to go away from here soon as I get well; but I'll take the good time along - some of it anyhow. Do you know about Jesus being born?"

"Yes," she replied. "I know. Sh-sh-sh'. Don't talk anymore."

"You do? I thought you looked as if you didn't, and I was going to tell you."

"Why, how do I look?!" asked the nurse.

"Oh, just like most folks - kind of glum. I should think you'd never look glum if you knew about Jesus being born."

## **II. ON THE CROSS – ROMANS 5:8**

There are many today that still have Jesus, the Son of God, on the cross. They claim to be followers of Him but act as if He had (or has) no power over death, and He's still dead.

Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**A. The Cross Testifies of the Love of God, the Father – John 3:16; Eph 2:11-14; I John 3:1**

John 3:16

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Ephesians 2:11–14

<sup>11</sup> Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

<sup>12</sup> That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

1 John 3:1

<sup>1</sup> Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

**B. The Cross Testifies of the Love of Christ – I Tim. 1:15; Heb. 2:9; I Pet. 3:18**

1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>15</sup> This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

## Hebrews 2:9

<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

## 1 Peter 3:18

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

"I shall give that to the missionaries," said Billy; and he put his fat hand on a little gold dollar, as he counted the contents of his money box.

"Why?" asked Susie.

"Cause it's gold. Don't you know the Wise Men brought Jesus gifts of gold? The missionaries worked for Jesus."

Still for a little bit, then Susie said, "The gold all belongs to Him anyhow. Don't you think it would be better to go right to Him and give Him what He asks for?"

"What's that?"

"My son give me thine heart." she replied.

### **III. ON THE THRONE – ACTS 5:31; 7:55-56**

For many, however, He's not still a baby in a manger, to be brought out once a year and put back to not be thought of again; He's not still on the cross, with no power over death, and unable to give us power over sin; for those, He is on the throne, demonstrating He has done all the work needed for our redemption.

Acts 5:31

<sup>31</sup> Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 7:55–56

<sup>55</sup> But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

<sup>56</sup> And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

**A. He Is at the Right Hand of God – Mark 16:19; Eph. 1:20**

Mark 16:19

<sup>19</sup> So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Ephesians 1:20

<sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

**B. He Is Given a Name Above Every Name - Phil. 2:9**

Philippians 2:9–10

<sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

<sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

**C. Worthy (indicating inherent value) of All Honor - Rev. 5:12**

Revelation 5:12

<sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

## Conclusion:

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people; and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to know that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness - are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you cannot keep it alone! - Henry Van Dyke.