

# **Jesus Our Savior – Christ the Lord**

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In the second chapter of Luke, an angel appeared to shepherds to tell them about Jesus. Luke 2:10-11, *“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”*

Most people have heard of Jesus, and may know a little about Him. What we hope to accomplish with this article is to tell the story of Jesus set within a historical context. We hope to tell His story in a way that is easy for someone new to the gospel to follow. We hope to show why Jesus came to this earth, what He accomplished and how He did it, so that we can see what He means to us.

It’s a big agenda, and we pray it will be edifying.

First of all, the story of Jesus does not start with His birth into this world. The story of Jesus actually begins with the creation of the world. If you read the first chapter of Genesis, you will see that God spoke this world into being, and spoke into being all the things that fill it. Psa. 33:8-9 summarizes this for us, *“Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”* Verse 6 says, *“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.”*

Jesus is the Word of God, by which He created the world, as we read in John 1:1-3, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”* Verse 14 tells us this Word was the Son of God, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* Verse 17 identifies God’s Son – full of grace and truth – as Jesus, *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”*

Mankind was one of the things God created through His Word, Jesus. Gen. 1:26-27, *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”*

God created man with only one rule at first, but this rule man broke. This one sin allowed sin in the door, and let death into this world. Since then all have sinned, and died because of their sin. This sad, but true, story is told in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chapters of Genesis, but summarized in Rom. 5:12, *“Wherefore, as by one*

*man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

The Old Testament scriptures then continue the story of God and man. They focus on the descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. Phil 2:5-7 tells us that even during this period of time before His birth Jesus was still active and equal with God but choosing to serve Him, *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”*. 1 Cor. 10:4 gives us one example of the things Jesus did in service to God. It speaks of a time when Abraham’s descendants were in the wilderness returning from slavery in Egypt. *“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”*

Throughout the Old Testament times, and continuing on today, mankind still struggled with sin. The best of men and women still stumbled, and so do we. Sacrifices were established by God and offered by man, but only as a temporary measure. Heb. 10:4, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”*

This leads us again to Jesus. The reason Jesus Christ the Word of God came to this earth was to take away our sins once and for all, as an angel explained to Joseph in Matt. 1:21, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”* The angel that appeared to the shepherds when Jesus was born was joined by many more, Luke 2:13-14, *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* He did not come to end war, but to bring us peace with God by taking away our sins. Heb. 9:28 (the last part of the verse) says, *“...Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

And it was a sacrifice. Jesus suffered a very cruel and agonizing death to forgive us our sins. Returning to Phil 2, we read in verses 7-8, *“But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* 1 Pet. 3:18, *“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.”*

Open your Bibles, or borrow one if you don’t have one yet yourself. Turn to the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; and read how Jesus suffered. Read how He was made fun of, laughed at, spat on, slapped, beaten and whipped. Read how He was nailed to a cruel cross, and lifted up upon it to suffer for hours before dying. Read, and understand, how He could have stopped the process at

any time. If you back up to the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah in the Old Testament, you will see that one angel defeated an entire army. Jesus could have called an army of angels to deliver Him. Because He did not, He was making a great sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice, offering Himself for us. Read how He forgave even those who were torturing Him. Read how they stabbed Him, even after He was dead. Understand that this was for you, so your sins could be forgiven, and you could have a relationship with God. It was all given to you through the love of God, and the love of Jesus Christ.

Did you notice as we read 1 Pet. 3:18 above, that although Jesus was put to death in the flesh, He was also quickened by the Spirit? To be quickened means to be made alive, or to be risen from the dead. Although Jesus died, the tomb where He was buried could not contain the Word of God. 1 Cor. 15:3-4, *“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*. If you read on through verse 9 you will see that over 500 people saw Jesus after He was risen. This is no fairy tale; it is a historical, verified fact. It happened. It is reality.

One of those who saw Jesus after He was risen was the apostle John. Jesus appeared to him when John was exiled on the island of Patmos. Jesus told John in Rev. 1:18, *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”* This means that not only was Jesus risen from the dead; but He will also cause us to be raised from the dead at the great day of judgment. 1 Cor. 15:21-23, *“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.”*

Our lives as Christians revolve around Jesus, and His death, burial, and resurrection.

The steps within His plan of salvation, (Hearing the Word, Faith, Repentance, Confession and Baptism), culminate in us partaking in His death, burial and resurrection. Rom. 6:3-4, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

One of the main reasons we come together on the first day of the week is to remember Jesus, and how He died for us. 1 Cor. 11:23-26, *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had*

*supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."*

When we remember His courage, love, and forgiveness, it should inspire us to live each day for Him, 2 Cor. 5:14-15, *"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."*

God gives us many more blessings through Jesus Christ. Let's take note of two before we close this article.

God gave us His Word through His Son Jesus Christ. It may seem a bit redundant to say He gave us the Word through the Word, but it is vital to understand. Heb. 1:1-2, *"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"*. It is very important then, that we follow Christ's words instead of man's. In John 12:48-49 Jesus said, *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."*

Jesus built His church, and He is the only head of it. Col. 1:18-19, speaking of Jesus, says, *"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. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;"*. We become a part of that body (church) when we are baptized. 1 Cor. 12:13, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* Why would we be a part of a church that is not His? Rom. 16:16, *"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."*

In summary, Jesus was in the beginning with God as His Word. He was equal to God throughout history, but chose to serve Him. All of mankind was lost in our sins until Jesus came and died for us on the cruel cross. He rose from the dead, and through Him we will rise one day also. Jesus is the focus of our Christian lives. He is the way we become a Christian. We partake of His death, burial and resurrection when we are baptized (after hearing, faith, repentance and confession). We remember His death in the communion portion of our worship on the first day of the week. Remembering Him should inspire us to live each day for Jesus, following the Word God delivered through Him – following Jesus as part of His church. Jesus is our Savior – the One who saved us from our

own sins. Jesus is our Lord – the One who we should follow and obey every day of our lives. This is what He means to us.

Let's close with Heb. 3:6, which encourages us to be faithful to Him all the days of our lives, "*But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*"

In Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford











