

“Son of the Most High”

Let me begin this Lord’s Day message with prayer

Reading from Luke chapter 1, beginning at verse 26 about the foretelling of the birth of Jesus, “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!’²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, ‘How will this be, since I am a virgin?’³⁵ And the angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.³⁸ And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.” Let’s explore together the rich teachings given to us by God.

Before Inception

The most fundamental fact about Christmas and the incarnation is; it starts with God. Reading verse 26, “**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth.**” The angel Gabriel was “**sent from God**”. Christmas has no biblical meaning without God. Christmas in America outside the remnant church or with the Happy Holidays of America lacks true meaning because God has been removed. It has a new meaning of getting gifts and materialism and family. However, America is suffering greatly because it no longer knows what God’s design for family is. This is true of Europe and much of the world – it is all about getting stuff with a shallow understanding of family. Outside of the biblical Christmas there is no true meaning because it lacks the truth of God. Christmas is about the Creator of the universe. He is not part of the universe and moving through the galaxies to reach earth. He is the Creator of the universe and everything in it. God is the Creator of the physical universe and the spiritual universe. God the Creator has no beginning and no end and as the Creator He dwells outside of time. As the Creator of everything, God has given us His rules for living in His universe, but mankind is in rebellion. God’s answer to this rebellion was to send Himself, God the Son into the physical universe, to the earth as a man born in the impossible and unique manner. Paul wrote, “**The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.**” (1 Timothy 1:15) So, Christmas is about God and His plan for saving people from their insurrection against what is true and right and pure. Christmas is about how God relates to us and we relate to Him. God is the Creator and we are the created. In Luke’s passage we are studying this morning it tells us two important things; first, **how** this God, who created everything, broke into the physical world to save sinners. Second, **who** it was that came about by God’s

inbreaking. So, this morning it is these two; the **how** and **who**, that I am going to speak about. My goal is in answering the “**who**” question I will also answer the question the world poses, “**so what?**” By answering the “**who**” and responding to the “**so what**” I believe we will discover what difference this makes to each and every person who has, who is and who will live on planet earth.

How did the Creator break into His universe

The Creator created the entire universe by the impossible, His mere word! “By faith we understand that **the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.**” (Hebrews 11:3) The creation of the universe by the Word of God certainly would have been a big bang, a cataclysmic event beyond my imagination. So, God broke in the physical universe by likewise doing the impossible. Reading from Luke 1:37, “**For nothing will be impossible with God.**” The angel Gabriel tells Mary ³¹ “**behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.**” ³² **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.**” he then gives her the bottom-line, the “**how**”, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.**” So, because God is the God of the impossible, He will become man in her womb, the womb of a virgin, by His power. When humans object to God, trying to naysay who and what God is or do not like something God commands or are overwhelmed, the bottom-line is always “**nothing will be impossible with God.**” Because God is the God of the impossible, He had been preparing the world for this event for thousands of years. In Genesis we read, ¹³ “**The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?”’**” ¹⁴ **Is anything too hard for the LORD?’”** (Genesis 18:13-14) Through his suffering Job remained faithful saying to the Lord, ² “**I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be**

thwarted.” (Job 42:2) As the prophet Jeremiah swore, ¹⁷“Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! **Nothing is too hard for you.**” (Jeremiah 32:17) Gabriel tells Mary the time has now arrived for the most impossible thing of all God’s impossible accomplishments; He will now enter into His creation as part of it and He will do this without ceasing to be the uncreated God.

Why God chose to enter the physical universe

In Luke, we are given simple truths, reading again at verse 26, “In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin.” Gabriel says to Mary in verse 31, “you will conceive in your womb and bear a son.” To this seeming impossible statement Mary responds in verse 34, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” Mary is thinking this is clearly impossible because she has not had sexual relations with any man. Her reasoning is she is betrothed, but not married, she and Joseph had not slept together, but all things are possible for God.

It was not Mary’s choosing, but God’s and He sent Gabriel to tell Mary that He, God of Creation would be created as the God-man in her womb. How? The God of the impossible would send Himself, as the 3rd Person of the Trinity as we read in verse 35, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you or overshadow you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the **child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**” This is the only human child ever born whose father was not human, Jesus is the Son of the eternal God and He is God. Joseph is Jesus’ adopted father. Jesus is divine because He is the Son of God the Father. God chose to break into the physical universe through a young virgin and do the impossible.

God also made sure His Son would have a legal human father who would be an heir of King David. Verse 27 clearly states, Mary was, “a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was **Joseph, of the house of David.**” For two thousand years, since the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God had been preparing for this moment in history. Promise after promise had pointed to the day when a son of David would come, a king, an heir to the throne. The prophecy given to Isaiah reads, “**In that day the root of Jesse (who was David’s father), who shall stand as a signal for the peoples.**” (Isaiah 11:10) Then at the end of the Bible again words given by God to John in the Book of Revelation chapter 22, Jesus waves His banner over all of history with these words, “**I, Jesus, ... am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.**” (v. 16) God broke into the physical universe not as a generic human being, but as a Jew, in fulfillment of 2000 years of covenant promises and He did it in a way that called Israel to glorify God for His truthfulness and for fulfilling His promises and by this all nations would come to glorify God for His mercy. Jesus came as the Son of David, as the Son of God, as a Jew to validate every promise found in the Old Testament and He came as a man to identify with every nation and every person on earth.

God broke into the universe by sending His Holy Spirit with divine power to impregnate the virgin Mary with His divine child. Mary asks a simple question in verse 34, “**How will this be, since I am a virgin?**” This is an important question, “How?” Gabriel might be thinking, “How?”, Mary you ask. Here is how, in verse 35, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**” God does the impossible by His unlimited and holy power. So, Luke tells us clearly that this is how God broke into the universe – He did the impossible.

Now I would like to turn to the question of **Who?** – who was it that came

from this inbreaking of God into His created universe and what difference can this mean for us and all people?

Who came from the inbreaking of God into his universe?

Let's start with the controversial fact that every person must understand; that the **who** of this in-breaking of God is a king. Reading from Luke once again, ³² "... Lord God will give to him the **throne** of his father David, ³³ and he will **reign** over the house of Jacob forever, and of his **kingdom** there will be no end." Here find 3 key words identify this person, this child of Mary, as a king. These key words are **throne**, **reign** and **kingdom**. You ask why is this controversial. Well, I think it is controversial because in our world today we believe in democracy – not kings and kingdoms. America broke free from a king over 200 years ago. Saudi Arabia has a king and it is not an attractive form of government. Kings or dictators or sultans are not attractive forms of government. Democracy is what most of the world has moved towards and we have fought wars to ensure our democracy and to help others obtain democracy. Rule by a king is something from the past that some are trying to cling to and some are being forced to live under. Let me respond by saying the only reason a king is not attractive is because in this age and in this broken world the only kings available are finite and they are sinful.

Let me read to you why C. S. Lewis believes in democracy. Lewis wrote, "A great deal of democratic enthusiasm descends from the ideas of people like *Rousseau, who believed in democracy because they thought mankind so wise and good that everyone deserved a share in the government. The danger of defending democracy on those grounds is that they're not true . . . I find that they're not true without looking further than myself. I don't deserve a share in governing a hen-roost, much less a nation. . . . The real reason for democracy is . . . Mankind is so

fallen that no man can be trusted with unchecked power over his fellows. Aristotle said that some people were only fit to be slaves. I do not contradict him. But I reject slavery because I see no men fit to be masters. (C.S. Lewis, "Equality," in *Present Concerns: Essays by C.S. Lewis*, quoted in Wayne Martindale and Jerry Root, *The Quotable C.S. Lewis* [Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1989], 152-153)

So, if it were possible to have a king who was not limited in his wisdom and power and goodness and love for his subjects, then living under such a king would be a great form of government and one would easily accept such a kingdom. If such a king came into the world; a king with no weakness, no imprudence, no sin, then no wise and humble person would ever want democracy again.

Four keys to what the birth of Jesus means for the universe

There is no question concerning whether God broke into the universe as a king, for this is fact. The real questions before us are, "What kind of king is Jesus?" and "What difference does His kingship make for us?" There are 4 words in Luke's text that give us the answer and these words imply that a person's joy is best served by their submitting to Jesus' kingship.

The first word is "Holy" found in verse 35, "[The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.](#)" Holy means pure, good, without defect or deficiency. This word is full of hope for every person because it means the God who is perfect came to earth as a God-Man to die in our place, to pay the penalty for our sins. Since Jesus is perfect in wisdom, grace, mercy and love He is a King worth living under His reign. It is unholy people who, as C. S. Lewis wrote, create the need for democracy. In God's kingdom there is universal peace and perfect justice. Then why is this not the condition of the world we live in? The

answer has been the same since Adam and Eve's fall in the garden, because mankind is in rebellion. God is holy and mankind is not. As believers we are called to live holy lives to glorify God and be a witness to the world and this can only be done through the power of God that indwells all true believers, the Holy Spirit God.

The second word is really 3 words at the end of verse 35, **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”** The angel Gabriel had earlier said to Mary, ³²**“He will be great and will be called the Son of God, Most High.”** This means that when God broke into the universe, the person, He became was both divine and human. The King who rules the world is not just the King of Israel as the son of David; He is the King of kings and Lord of lords for He is the only Son of the eternal living God. To have this King as one's king, ruling over their life is to be protected by infinite power. No one can destroy you for the eternal King of heaven assures you will be with Hm for eternity.

The third word is the name of the King, Jesus. In verse 31, we read, **“behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.** Matthew adds to this, **“you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”** (Matthew 1:21) The name Jesus is a transliteration of the Greek *Iēsous* (yea-suous) which corresponds to the Hebrew name Joshua and means “savior”. Therefore, the King of the universe is given the name Savior. Not Savior of the righteous, but Savior of sinners. As Paul clearly wrote to Timothy, **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”** (1 Timothy 1:15) All His holiness, all His deity and power stand in the service of His saving mercy toward rebellious people. God broke into the universe to be a holy, divine and a saving King.

The fourth word is “forever”. Reading at verse 33, “**he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.**” This King of Israel, who is also the King of the world will never be replaced. No election will be held to vote in Jesus as the President of the world. Although it will tried to make man, a sinful and corrupt man, ruler of the world - it fails, but that is another story for another day. There will never be someone else sitting on the Throne of Jesus. This is why we are assured that the salvation Jesus offers and His protection is forever.

Now we know the answer to our questions. God broke into the physical universe to be holy, divine and the saving King forever. Who is it that came and brought Christmas? The King who broke into the universe of mankind has asked me to declare, as He is ambassador, that in this year of our Lord 2020, there is amnesty for all who have rejected His kingship, all who live in rebellion up to now. Before He sat down on His throne, first He died for the sins of all mankind, so, “**that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**” (John 3:16) So, our King declares, whoever lays down their arms of rebellion and receives the forgiveness of the King and swears allegiance to Him as the One holy, divine, saving King will live forever. In the name of King Jesus, I say, come and receive the gift of salvation. Amen!

***Jean-Jacques Rousseau** (28 June 1712 – 2 July 1778) was a Genevan philosopher, writer, and composer. His political philosophy influenced the progress of the Enlightenment throughout Europe, as well as aspects of the French Revolution and the development of modern political, economic and educational thought.