

IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN

Matthew 1:18-25

INTRODUCTION

- A. Many things that we say could be stated differently.
1. "WWJD" – What Would Jesus Do? – Should be "WDJD" – What Did Jesus Do? Point being that Jesus set the example for us and it is recorded in the NT. If one wants to know what Jesus did they must read it in His Word.
 2. "Jesus is the reason for the season." – Should be "Jesus is the reason." Jesus is not just the reason for the "Christmas season" – Jesus is the reason and the only reason for everyday.
- B. No one exactly when Jesus was born. His birthday does not matter. What matters, something of eternal significance, is that he was born. For Jesus to die, He had to be born!
- C. If Jesus was not born, the greatest book in the world, the book that "had done more for the world than all the books that man ever wrote." (William Jennings Bryan) is a book of lies.
1. RE 19:10.
 2. Acts 10:43.
 3. MC 5:2; IS 9:6-7.
- D. If 50 prophecies about the coming of Jesus had been made, assuming an equal chance for their happening or not happening, the law of probability against all 50 being fulfilled is greater than eleven hundred and twenty-five million to one that all of these circumstances do turn up.
1. And then to assume that the 50 events would happen to one person surpasses the power of numbers to express correctly the immense improbability of its taking place.
 2. But not 50, but 332 prophecies of Christ have been counted. The happen-chance that all these would settle on one man is one over 84 plus 97 zeros.
 3. There are 456 passages referring to Christ and His days as used by Jews in their Talmud and Targumin.
 4. 332 prophecies and 456 referrals to Christ and His days are found in the 39 OT books which were written over 400 years before Jesus was born, with some going back to 1500 years before His birth.
- E. The uniqueness of Biblical prophecy is seen in that other books pertaining to religion (those of Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Zoroastrianism, etc) make no attempts to make predictions.
1. But the Bible puts itself on a limb and risks being cut off, a chance that other books of religion do not take.
 2. When self-made prophets are placed by the side of Bible prophets, somebody gets embarrassed.
- F. Examples.
1. D'Israeli predicted that the Southern Confederacy would become an independent nation.
 2. Robert Ingersoll predicted that within ten years there would be two theatres for one church building.
 3. Cardan, an Italian mathematician, predicted the day and hour of his own death, and committed suicide at the proper time to prove his prediction.
 4. Jeanne Dixon, two weeks before Jacqueline Kennedy's marriage to Aristotle Onassis, said she could see no marriage for Jackie in the near future.
 5. Another of her predictions was, "Russia will be the first nation to put a man on the moon."
 6. Now listen to Jesus in JN 7:17.

- G. The impact of a living, breathing, dying, risen, first century Jesus of Nazareth cannot be offset, for what he did was not “done in a corner” (Acts 26:26). Whatever else about Christ that might be attacked, his actuality must be admitted.
- H. Since much is being said about the birth let us look at some things that would not have happened if Jesus had not been born.

DISCUSSION

- I. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO EXAMPLE FOR CHRISTIANS TO FOLLOW.
 - A. 1 PE 2:21.
 - B. HE 8:5.
 - C. HE 9:23.
- II. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION, NOR ASCENSION.
 - A. What does the resurrection prove? 1 CO 15:12-57.
 - 1. The resurrection of Jesus proves the ultimate truth that Christianity is true!
 - 2. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims Christ is Victor over Death.
 - 3. The resurrection of Jesus proves that there is life to come.
 - 4. The resurrection proves that Jesus is coming again!
 - B. RO 6:1-23 – note the implications.
 - 1. We were united with Jesus in His death.
 - 2. We were united with Jesus in His resurrection.
 - 3. As a result, we have a new life in Christ.
 - C. Note the following passages.
 - 1. Acts 5:18-20.
 - 2. 2 CO 5:16-17.
 - 3. GA 2:20.
- III. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN, THERE WOULD BE NO PERFECT SACRIFICE AND NO JUSTIFICATION.
 - A. The Holy Spirit repeatedly addresses Jesus’ perfect sacrifice. HE 10:1-7.
 - B. Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself was so perfect it was “once for all”. HE 10:10; Cf. Jude 3.
 - C. If Jesus had not died, there would be no grace. JN 1:17.
 - D. Without grace, the only way man could be justified would be by perfect law keeping, which no man has ever done. RO 3:23.
 - E. Therefore, Jesus was “delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” RO 4:25.
- IV. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO ULTIMATE EXAMPLE OF LOVE.
 - A. Jesus divested Himself of heaven’s glory and the Father sent His only begotten Son. JN 3:16; 2 CO 8:9.
 - B. There has never been such an example of love!
- V. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO PRAYER IN JESUS’ NAME.
 - A. Prayer in Jesus’ name is predicated on Jesus’ death and triumphant resurrection.
 - B. JN 16:23, 24; 1 JN 2:1.
 - C. If Jesus had not died there would be no prayer in Jesus’ powerful name and no advocate
- VI. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO CHURCH.
 - A. MT 16:13-18.
 - B. MK 9:1; LK 24:49; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4.
 - C. Acts 2:47; Cf. EP 5:23; 1:22, 23.
 - D. JN 3:3-5; 1 PE 1:23.
 - E. Salvation is in Christ, His spiritual body, the church. EP 1:22, 23; 2 TI 2:10.

- F. Jesus death benefited those before the cross and after the cross. HE 9:15. In the absence of Jesus' death, man would be without hope.
- VII. IF JESUS HAD NOT BEEN BORN THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE FOR THE WORLD.
 - A. EP 2:12.
 - B. 1 TH 4:13-18.
 - C. We have hope!
 - 1. Acts 2:25, 26.
 - 2. Acts 23:6.
 - 3. Acts 24:10-21.
 - 4. RO 5:1-5.

CONCLUSION

- A. PH 2:8; HE 5:8-9. Therefore, if Jesus had not been born there would be no perfect example of obedience and no access to heaven.
- B. If Jesus was not born, then he had no blood, and so the New Testament teaching that Jesus' blood is a cleansing agent for sins (MT 26:28; EP 1:7; RE: 1:5; 7:14) is meaningless. Consequently, if Jesus was not born, baptism to "wash away" sins a mere exercise in getting wet.
- C. If Jesus was not born, then the beautiful story of his resurrection is pure fiction, a fiction that means nobody has been raised from the dead and that nobody ever will be raised.
- D. If Jesus was not born, then he "was not lifted up" from "the mount called Olives, which is near Jerusalem," into "heaven" (Acts 1:11-12), which means that nobody will "meet the Lord in the air, and so" nobody will "always be with the Lord" (1 TH 4:17).
- E. But if Jesus was born without a human father of the Virgin Mary, then he truly was and is Emmanuel, meaning "God is with us," as the prophet predicted (IS 7:14; MT 1:23). And his sinless (2 CO 5:21; 1 PE 2:22) blood, by God's "eternal purpose" (EP 3:11; HE 9:22) is powerful: "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (IS 1:18), when you rise from the water of baptism "doth also now save" you " 1 PE 3:21). "He [Jesus] paid a debt He did not owe; I owed a debt I could not pay. I needed someone to wash my sins away. And now I sing a brand new song: Amazing Grace."
- F. And if Jesus was born as "God with us," he not only can solve my sin problem, but he can assure me that the cemetery will be no difficulty, for "Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:" (2 TI 1:10), saying "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (JN 11:25-26).
- G. And if Jesus was born as "God with us," not only are dedicated people cleansed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 PE 1:19), and not only are they not worried by the grave: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (RE 14:13), but also God "which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you," (1 PE 1:3-4).