



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 21 No. 52

LORD'S DAY 24 DECEMBER 2017

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:6

Philippians 2:5-11

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 152 – “Joy to the World!”

RHC 157 – “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Opening Prayer **

John Poh

John Poh

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 95

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 95:1-7

(to the tune of St Louis, RHC 171)

Announcements & Memory Verse

John Poh

John Poh

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 141 – “That Beautiful Name”

Scriptural Text

Matthew 2:1-12 & Luke 2:1-20

Revelation 21:1-27

Pastoral Prayer

Mr Fred Raynsford

Mr Fred Raynsford

Sermon Message

What Think Ye of Christ

The Eternal Home of the Believer

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 142 – “Tell Me the Story of Jesus ”

RHC 155 – “The First Noel”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Mr Fred Raynsford

Mr Fred Raynsford

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." - Proverbs 4:23

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

Adapted from Maranatha Messenger, Sunday 25th December 2016

Christmas is the season to remember the incarnation of Christ. Christ's incarnation was not an afterthought by God the Father, but planned in eternity past, prophesied by the prophets of the Old Testament, and fulfilled when the fullness of time came.

The Apostle Paul puts it in the following way, *But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons* (Galatians 4:4-5).

What is the Incarnation?

The word "incarnation" is derived from the Latin word meaning "in flesh". When it is applied to Jesus Christ it means that His divine nature was united to a true human nature at the time of His conception. The eternal God was "enfleshed"; He became the God-man.

Incarnation is, in the words of John Calvin, *Son of God became Son of Man, so that sons of men became sons of God*. The Westminster Shorter Catechism question 22 asks, *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?* And it replies, *Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin*. Incarnation was an act whereby the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, without ceasing to be what He is, God the Son, took into Himself a human nature, born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

J Oswald Sanders explains, *Man has always craved a God who is tangible and visible. As he bows to stone and trees, the idolater is mutely expressing the desire of the human heart for a god who can be seen. Job lamented that although he sought for God, he could not see Him. "Behold, I go forward, but He is not there. . . . I cannot behold him" (Job 23:8-9). Philip shared the same longing when he asked, "Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us" (John 14:8). God's answer to this universal longing, the incarnation of His Son, was implied in Jesus' answer to Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). The clear implication is that in the acts and attitudes of the Son we have a revelation of the activities and attitudes of the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18).*

Jesus is fully God, and also fully man. His birth combined a true but sinless humanity with all the attributes of His deity resulting in a single person with both divine and human natures. To do this, the Lord Jesus Christ condescended to leave all the glories and privileges of His preexistent state, and become a servant and sacrifice.

The Incarnation of Christ Mentioned in the Scriptures

The following Scriptures teach that the pre-existent Christ became man:

1. The Word became flesh, and dwelt among men (John 1:14);
2. Forasmuch then as the children share in flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise partook of the same (Hebrews 2:14);
3. When the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman (Galatians 4:4; cf. Romans 8:3); and who, being in the form of God . . . emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:6f).

The Gospels (Matthew 1, 2; Luke 1, 2) give the historical record of the incarnation and trace it to the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. That the historical Jesus was in fact the eternal Son of God, whose coming was predicted in the Old Testament, was the theme of apostolic preaching (Acts 17:3; 18:5, 28).

Prophecies Related to Incarnation

The Old Testament, written over a period of 1000 years and several hundred years before the birth of Christ, contains several prophecies concerning the coming Messiah.

Concerning Christ's lineage, it was predicted that He would be of the:

1. Son of God (compare Isaiah 9:6 with Matthew 1:23; 16:16; Luke 1:35);
2. Seed of the woman - i.e. virgin birth (compare Genesis 3:15 with Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:26-38);
3. Seed of Abraham (compare Genesis 22:18 with Matthew 1:1-2; Luke 3:34);
4. Tribe of Judah (compare Genesis 49:10 with Matthew 1:1-3; Luke 3:33);
5. Family of Jesse (compare 1 Samuel 16:1; Isaiah 11:1, 10 with Matthew 1:6; Luke 3:32);
6. House of David (compare 1 Samuel 16:12-13; 2 Samuel 7:12-17; Isaiah 9:6-7 with Matthew 1:1, 6-7; Luke 1:32-33; 3:23-38); and
7. The royal line cut off and cursed, yet the promise preserved (Jeremiah 22:28-30; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:17-38).

Jeremiah 22:28-30 clearly shows the royal line was to be cursed and cut off. Included in the royal line of David through Solomon was Jeconiah (or Coniah) (Compare Jeremiah 22:28-30 with Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:17-38). The curse clearly states that no physical seed of Coniah could ever occupy the throne of David. This means the royal line of David through Solomon was cut off.

But what about God's promises to David concerning his throne and kingdom? Are they abrogated and thus fulfilled in the spiritual reign of God in the church as many teach today? Is God finished with the nation of Israel? Will there be then no millennial reign? The answer is an emphatic NO! God is not finished with Israel. And YES, there will be a millennial reign! God's promises to David are not abrogated and the reason they are not is because of the Immanuel promise and its fulfillment in the birth of Jesus Christ.

How does the virgin birth accomplish this? Through the virgin birth Jesus became the legal son of Joseph by adoption, but the physical son of David through Mary. Joseph, who was in the royal line of David through Solomon, gave Jesus legal title to the throne by adoption (Matthew 1:1-17). Mary, by the Spirit-wrought miracle of the virgin birth, made Jesus a literal son of David through Nathan another one of David's sons (Luke 3:23-38).

The incarnation of Christ is one of the great mysteries, by which the God of eternity came to this sinful world, dwelt among us, died for our sins on Calvary Cross, resurrected on the third day and ascended to glory again. Our response to this great miracle should be wonder and worship for man's salvation. We, with all humility of heart, accept Him as our only Saviour, and honour Him through our obedient life.

- Rev Dr George Skariah

Covenant BP Church
Bangalore, India

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Weds 27th December No Mid-Week Outreach Bible Study			We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Sat 30th December No Bible Study & Prayer Meeting			
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
<i>Preacher</i>	Mr Stephen Toms	Mr Stephen Toms	TODAY: 24/12/2017
<i>Message</i>	For Such a Time	An Amazing Jew	<i>Chairman:</i> John
<i>Text</i>	Esther 4:14	Esther 10:3	<i>Organist:</i> Lydia
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<i>Pianist:</i> Venise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-lunch Bible Study: There will be a video by RC Sproul on "Pleasing God". Sunday School: This afternoon at 2:45pm the church will be holding Sunday School for young children and toddlers, led by Elizabeth, Nina and Barbara. Please invite friends and family to attend. Christmas Eve Offering: The collection this year will be used for Missions. Church Pulpit Ministry: Pray for the Pulpit Ministry and for the calling of a new minister. Changes to Church Activities from January 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Evening worship will be brought forward to 3pm. ➤ No Pre-lunch Bible Study. 			<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret
			<i>Lunch:</i> Carry-In
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Scott
			NEXT WEEK: 31/12/2017
			<i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan
			<i>Organist:</i> Michael
			<i>Pianist:</i> Venise
			<i>Ushers:</i> Tom / John
			<i>Lunch:</i> Volunteers
			<i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers
			<i>PA Crew:</i> Scott / John
Worship Service Collections - Last Sunday: £375.00, Lunch £23.90			Church Maintenance Fund Total: £3,960.50
Attendance - Morning: 23 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 11 (A) 5 (C)			

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 98

Q: What is prayer?

A: *Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of CHRIST, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies.*

Comments:

Prayer means *asking* of God; and we are here told the following three things respecting it: 1. As to its *form*, it should be offered to God in the name of Christ; 2. As to its *substance*, it should be for things agreeable to God's will; 3. As to its *manner*, it should be made with humble acknowledgement of our sins, and grateful acknowledgement of God's mercy.

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 7:7, John 16:23, Philippians 4:6

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

Romans 12:10

This Week

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:11

Next Week

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Matthew 24:35