

The Son of God

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Psalms 2 Isaiah 9:2-7 Hebrews 4:14-16 Luke 2:1-14

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When the angel Gabriel came to Mary, he told her that by the grace of God she would have a unique, *one-of-a-kind* role in the Kingdom of God: she would be the mother of Jesus, the **Son of God**! Here is some of what Gabriel said to Mary:

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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end." Luke 1:32-33

Jesus is *conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary*¹. While Mary was in Bethlehem with Joseph, she gave birth her firstborn **Son**, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christmas is a focus on this **SON**, who was born in Bethlehem. Christmas is the time we remember His *incarnation*; that God *became flesh* in order to rescue us from our sins.

The title **Son of God**² is a *divine title* that is given to Jesus. During His ministry on earth, even the hostile Jews recognized this as a divine title and accused Him of blasphemy for using it (John 5:18).

¹ Note in this Luke passage that Jesus is both the "Son of the Most High" – a reference to His divine nature; and He will be given "the throne of His father David" – a reference to His human nature. Jesus is both Son of God and Son of David; He is God and Man; He is One Person (Jesus) with Two Natures (a Divine and Human nature). The Apostles' Creed captures that with the confession that Jesus is "conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary."

² In the powerful, Messianic **Psalms 2**, the Messiah is proclaimed the Son of God; the King Who is given all things, Who has divine authority, and Who rules over all things. Psalm 2 stands behind Jesus' Incarnation, Baptism, Transfiguration, Resurrection, Ascension, Deity, and High Priesthood.

As we look to the book of Hebrews to teach us the meaning of Christmas this year, we learn a lot about the **Son of God** who was born in Bethlehem.

We learn that Jesus is **God's Speaking Son**, Jesus is the One who reveals God to us!

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son Hebrews 1:1-2

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke for God; Jesus speaks as God! If you want to know what God is like you look at Jesus, and you listen to His Words. He speaks with full divine authority³. He is the only One who reveals God to us; Jesus teaches us about the love, grace, and compassion of our God. Only in Christ do you learn that God is not an angry judge just waiting to punish you; but rather He is loving, kind, gracious, and merciful to you. God's love for you is high and wide and long and deep --> it has no end. God's love for you is sacrificial, for the Father will give His Son on a cross to bring you back to Him. If you want to know the One, True and Only God, then look to Jesus Christ; see what He does and learn what He says. Jesus is **God's Speaking Son**, born in Bethlehem!

Jesus is also **God's Compassionate Son**, Who became like us in every way and in every respect, except for sin. He lived a human life, He knows temptations, He understands our weaknesses, He knows betrayal, He was hated and despised, and He suffered

³ To highlight this, in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) Jesus uses the phrase "Truly, I say unto you" almost 50 times. In the Gospel of John, Jesus doubles the phrase to "Truly, Truly, I say unto you" 25 times. Jesus, the Son of God, **speaks with full, divine authority** because He is God! (This is why we spend so much time hearing, reading, learning, studying, and memorizing His Word!)

terribly and has even gone through death. He did this all for you, so that He is now compassionate and kind and is able to help you in your time of need.

Since then we have a Great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, **Jesus, the Son of God**, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:14-15

Jesus is your brother who sympathizes with your weaknesses: He is merciful and kind to you. He knows you, He understands life on earth, and He promises to use His divine power to help you. Jesus is **God's Compassionate Son**, *born in Bethlehem!*

Jesus is also **God's Powerful Son**, who destroyed the devil and sets you free from your guilt, your sin, and even the fear of death. The reason the **Son of God** appeared was to **destroy** the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). Jesus **crushed** Satan's head (Genesis 3:15) when He died on the cross; you are now set free from his power, the devil has no hold over you whatsoever.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-14

All Satan can do is **whisper temptations** to you; his only trick is to **lie and deceive** you. **God's Powerful Son**, *born in Bethlehem*, has set you free from the devil when He died on the cross!

Jesus is **God's Sinless Son**, Who perfectly obeyed the Will of God the Father in all things. He lived a perfect life for you ... and He was the perfect Lamb of God, with blemish or spot, who was

sacrificed for the sins of the world. Jesus suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God (1 Peter 3:18). Because of Jesus, you have peace with God; you are invited into God's presence, you are given *unlimited access* to the Holy of Holies in Heaven!

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

Jesus brings God's grace to you and takes you and your needs to the Father in Heaven. Jesus is **God's Sinless Son**, *born in Bethlehem*, Who has opened up the way to the Father for you!

Finally, Jesus is **God's Royal Son**, the King of all who reigns at the Right Hand of God the Father in Heaven. He is given King David's throne, an eternal Kingdom promised in the Old Testament. Jesus reigns over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:32-33). It is no wonder that angels filled the skies singing "*Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill towards men*" (Luke 2:16). It's no wonder that the Kings of the earth would follow a heavenly star in order to worship Him with gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2). Jesus is **God's Royal Son**, *born in Bethlehem*, Who rules over the heavens and the earth and everything in them.

This week, we too will gather to worship the **Son of God**, *born in Bethlehem*. The Holy Spirit has given us faith so that we know, believe, and confess that Jesus is **God's Speaking, Compassionate, Powerful, Sinless, and Royal Son!**

Amen!