

# **The Church Connected**

*Presents*

***Celebrating  
The Birth Of Christ  
The Beginning Of The End***

# **Welcome Back to the Christmas Celebration Bible Study**

## **"Celebrating The Birth of Christ: The Beginning of the End"**

As we saw in session one, according to the angel's announcement, "WHEN THE PROPER TIME HAD FULLY COME, GOD SENT HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN."

We looked at the fact that 1). Christ came according to prophecy, 2). He was born into a religiously oppressive and corrupt Jewish system and 3). He had to come at an optimal time in governmental history.

In session two, we're going to journey through the part of the angel's announcement as it relates to being in God's family and what that position includes.

The Birth of Christ set the scene for both, our rebirth and adoption, into the family of God. That new position in God's family is irreversible.

Our rebirth and adoption put us in God's family as His birth children, not just His creation.

The Birth of Christ enabled us to be brought back into God's family. Our rebirth and adoption are reasons to Celebrate the Birth of Christ.

# Announcement Of The Angels To The Shepherds

*But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born subject to the regulations of the Law, To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law, **THAT WE MIGHT BE ADOPTED AND HAVE SONSHIP CONFERRED UPON US AND BE RECOGNIZED AS GOD'S SONS.** (Galatians 4: 4-5 Amplified Classic)*

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*But when the right time came, God sent His Son, who was born from a woman, and lived under the law. God did this so that He could buy the freedom of those who were under the law. **GOD'S PURPOSE WAS TO MAKE US HIS CHILDREN.** (Galatians 4: 4-5 ERV)*

# The Birth Of Christ: We Are Reborn And Adopted

We're going to look at being made a part of God's family as seen from both Jewish and a Roman points of view.

From the Jewish point of view, Christians have been "Reborn" or "Born Again" into God's family and from the Roman point of view, Christians are "Adopted" into God's family. The result is the same; Christians are in God's family forever.

Using those traditions, we're going to look at two reasons why we should celebrate the Birth of Christ:

## **REASON ONE:**

- ✓ We are both reborn and adopted into God's family.

## **REASON TWO:**

- ✓ We have eternal life in an honored position and this entitles us to all the privileges that position entails.

In the Jewish tradition, when a person is "born" or "brought" into a Jewish family, the focus is on continuing the legacy and blood line.

- ✓ "Even though adoption does not exist formally as a practice in the Jewish collection of Laws called the Halacha, there are examples of adoption in Jewish writings and in the Hebrew bible.<sup>2</sup>  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoption\\_in\\_Judaism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoption_in_Judaism))
- ✓ "Jewish Law focus on the importance of royal bloodlines and class meant that an adoption procedure was never introduced. Similarly, in Judaism, genealogy determines

the status of the child, which cannot be removed by a legal procedure."<sup>2</sup>

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoption\\_in\\_Judaism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adoption_in_Judaism))

To be "born" or "brought" into God's family, God Himself had to be the Father.

- ✓ The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.[a] Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1: 18-21)

To be "born" or "brought" into God's family, God Himself had to be the Father. (con't)

- ✓ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I am a virgin!" The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1: 30-35)

Roman adoption centered around the legal transfer of rights and "having a suitable male [or female] heir... head of the family or owner of the family estate."<sup>3</sup>

- ✓ "When the adoption was legally approved, the adoptee would have all his debts cancelled and he would receive a new name. He would be the legal son of his adoptive father and entitled to all the rights and benefits of a son. A father could disown his natural-born son, but an adoption was irreversible."<sup>4</sup>
  3. (<https://carolashby.com/adoption-in-the-roman-empire/>)
  4. (<https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-adoption.html>)

Adoption into God's family is confirmed by having a witness (the Spirit of Adoption). That confirmation solidifies and verifies that we're now part of God's family and legal heirs, that is, have a position and part of all that He has.

- ✓ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. **(Romans 8: 15-18)**

# The Birth Of Christ: We Have A Portion Of Eternity

As we saw in the first reason to Celebrate the Birth of Christ, we have a legacy and are heirs of God because of Jesus Christ. Our legacy and inheritance is by both, rebirth and adoption.

In the context of obtaining our inheritance, since God doesn't die, the word inheritance means that:

We have an allotted possession by right of sonship, we're a possessor, we are one who shares by lot\*

(\* Thayer & Strong's Definition, Strong's #G2818)

The second reason to Celebrate the Birth of Christ, is that we now have eternal life in an honored position, That position includes several entitlements as children of God. Two of them are 1). dwellings in God's house and 2). a seat in heavenly places.

1). Mansions/Large, luxurious residence within God's house  
Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14: 2-3)

2). A Seat In Heavenly Places

- ✓ And God raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat [ God appointed a place, to confer a kingdom on one - Thayer defition, Strongs #G2523] with Him in the heavens [heavenly places/realms]. God did this for those in Christ Jesus so that for all future time in the ages to come] He could show the very great [exceeding; overwhelming] riches of His grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesian 2: 6-7 EXB)

# Thank You For Continuing Our Journey

This week we learned that the Birth Christ began the series of events that put us in a position to be reborn and adopted into God's family. That position is irreversible in both Jewish and Roman tradition.

We also learned that the Birth of Christ was the beginning that allowed us to have a honored position eternally in God's family with an inheritance and an allotment of God's creation.

We hope you enjoyed Session Two and got a further glimpse as to why we celebrate The Birth of Christ and why we should celebrate it all year long.

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Doodle Animation Music by Robert S. Bradley  
(Stoogle Productions, LLC)

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## See you next week for Session Three

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