

## INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST (Paul E. Engle 1/23)

### Session #4 Virgin Conception, Birth, and Childhood of Jesus

INTRO. – How do these births differ from that of Christ?

- a. Buddha
- b. Confucius
- c. Mohammad

#### I. CONCEPTION AND BIRTH OF JESUS

A. Jesus' birth was \_\_\_\_\_

1. Annunciation to \_\_\_\_\_ (Lk. 1:26-37)
2. Annunciation to \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 1:21-25 )

B. Jesus' birth came as a result of a \_\_\_\_\_

1. Scholars began questioning in 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. But the stories from pagan myths are significantly different –How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The idea of a virgin conception is not a late addition to the Gospel story. Why? Because \_\_\_\_\_

\* Mark 6:3

\* John 8:41

\* Gal. 4:4

4. What's the theological significance of the virgin conception?
  - a. Some say believing it is necessary to protect the sinless nature of Christ. What do you think? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Some say that the conception in Mary makes possible the full \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Jesus' birth was linked to a genealogical family tree.

1. Matthew's genealogy extends from \_\_\_\_\_ (Joseph's line).

Groups of how many? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Luke's genealogy names in reverse order between \_\_\_\_\_. (Mary's line.)

D. The place of Christ's birth: Bethlehem (Mt. 2:1; Lk. 2:4-7) Why this town?

1. Because \_\_\_\_\_
2. This fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_
3. Because of the providential detail of a \_\_\_\_\_

E. The date/timing of Jesus' Birth

1. Both Matthew and Luke say Jesus was born during \_\_\_\_\_
2. Josephus reports that Herod died in the \_\_\_\_\_ year of his reign. This would be \_\_\_\_\_ BC. Why not Zero? \_\_\_\_\_
3. So most scholars date the birth between \_\_\_\_\_
4. The census which Luke mentions in 2:1 can't be dated with certainty.
5. Where does the dating of December 25 arise?

Not until \_\_\_\_\_ did Christmas become a federal government holiday.

6. The birth was providentially timed in terms of when in history it occurred. Cf. Gal. 4:4 *"When the time had fully come God sent his Son, born of a woman."*

- a.
- b.
- c.

7. Yet Christ's appearance in century one was not his beginning. He preexisted Cf. John 1:1-2; 8:58; Nicene Creed

F. What are some ideas some people hold about the birth of Jesus that don't bear up under examination from Scripture?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Jesus was born \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Jesus was born at an inn (*katalyma*)

## II. Childhood of Jesus

A. What was his human family like? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Joseph, the human "step-father" of Jesus was a carpenter by trade. Matt. 13:55

- 1. Jesus also followed in his father's steps – cf. Mark 6:3 People in the synagogue in Nazareth asked, *"Isn't this the carpenter?"*
- 2. Greek term for carpenter is *tekton*. What does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What's Sephoris \_\_\_\_\_

C. We know little about the childhood of Jesus (except some strange tales from some of the apocryphal gospels such as the Infancy Gospel of Thomas).

## CONCLUSION –

Because there are many "silent years" in the life of Christ between his birth and his public ministry, some strange speculations have risen to the surface. Have you heard the one about Jesus traveling to India?

J.B. Phillips: "If New Testament Christianity is to reappear today with its power and joy and courage, men must recapture the basic conviction that this is a Visited planet. It is not enough to express formal belief in the "Incarnation" or in the "Divinity of Christ"; the staggering truth must be accepted afresh — that in this vast, mysterious universe, of which we are an almost infinitesimal part, the great Mystery, Whom we call God, has visited our planet in Person. It is from this conviction that there springs unconquerable certainty and unquenchable faith and hope. It is not enough to believe theoretically that He was both God and Man; not enough to admire, respect, and even worship Him; it is not even enough to try to follow Him. The reason for the insufficiency of these things is that the modern intelligent mind, which has had its horizons widened in dozens of different ways, has got to be shocked afresh by the audacious central Fact — that, as a sober matter of history, God became one of us."