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Christmas Sunday, December 23, 2007
An Epilogue to the Study of Hebrews

Jesus: The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Hebrews 13:8

Introduction

Why did Jesus come in human flesh? What was God's purpose in the incarnation? Since God is omniscient couldn't He know all about human need without having to become flesh? Why was He born in human form and live as a human being? Why did He have to die in order to provide our salvation? These are relevant questions to answer on a Christmas Sunday! The answers are found in three realities: understanding what Jesus came to do; understanding what He is doing now; and understanding what He will Do!

I. Three Reasons Jesus Came.

1. Jesus came to show us God's love, Jn. 3:16.

- Rom. 5:8 - While we were sinners God loved us; Christ died for us.
- 2 Thess. 2:16-17 - God loved us; sent Christ to give hope and establish every good work.
- 1 Jn. 4:7-11 Since God loved us, we are to love one another.
- Rev. 1:5 - God loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood; cf. Rev. 5:9; 7:14; 12:11.

2. Jesus came to show us God's appearance and character, Jn. 14:9.

- Jn. 14:9 - Jesus looked like God, to see Him was to see God.
- Gen. 1:26-27 - We are in the image of God. Spiritual beings have form or appearance - Gen. 32:24; Jud. 13:6, 18; Dan. 8:15-16; Lk. 1.
- Jn. 17:20-23 - Jesus was God in human flesh, but one with God.
- Gen. 9:6 - Image of God establishes human worth and value.
- Rom 8:10-11 - Explains the why of our own resurrection, 1 Cor 15:20.

3. Jesus came to redeem us and to be our Kinsman Redeemer, Eph. 1:7

- Rom. 8:16-17 - He restored our lost inheritance - we lost our inheritance because of sin. Jesus made us joint heirs with Him.
- Isa. 62:2 - He restored our name = character, Gen. 25:25-26; gives a new name = radical change, Gen. 32:24-30; 2 Cor 5:17; Rev 2:17.
- Rom. 6:11-23 - He freed from sin's slavery, Lev. 25:25, 49.
- Jn. 10:10; Eph. 2:1, 8-9, 11-14 - He restored our lost life - Dead in trespasses and sins, He is resurrection and life, Jn. 11:25-26.

II. Four Things Jesus is Doing Now!

1. He is preparing our future dwelling place, Jn 14:2-3a, 28

- Jn. 14:2-3a - It is a personal dwelling place. He is preparing a mansion (*monh*, Greek, *monē*, dwelling place), our own personal home.
 - Ps. 23:6 - It is an eternal dwelling place; wonderful place, 1 Cor. 2:9.
 - Isa. 25:8; Rev. 21:3-4 - It is an eternally joyful place.
2. **He is preparing to come again to take us with him**, Jn 14:3b.
 - Acts 1:8 - He will come in clouds of glory.
 - Mt. 24:1-44 - He will come when all signs fulfilled, esp. v. 14.
 - Rev. 19:11 - He is now saddling His white horse to bring justice, redemption, judgment.
 3. **He is interceding as our Great High Priest**, Heb. 4:14-15; 7:25-26
 - 1 Tim. 2:5 - He is the one mediator of God and of humankind
 - Heb. 7:23-24 - He is a permanent High Priest, always available
 - Heb. 7:25-28 - He is a perfect High Priest, saves us completely
 4. **He is superintending the work of the Holy Spirit**, Jn. 14:17-18.
 - Jn. 14:18 - He did not leave us orphans, sent us the Comforter.
 - Jn. 16:7-15 - He gave us greater advantage by going away.
 - Jn. 16:8, 13-15 - He convicts of sin and guides us to all truth.
 - Rom. 8:26-27 - He conveys our prayers, our inner thoughts and inexpressible desires to God the Father

III. Five Things Jesus Will Do in the Future!

1. **He will come to rapture His church**, 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 4:1.
 - 1 Thess 4:16-17 - Dead in Christ first, all other believers second.
 - Rev 19:7-9 - Church called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.
2. **He will defeat enemies**, set up His Millennial Kingdom, Rev. 19:11-21.
 - Rev. 20:4-6 - 1,000 years of peace also Ezek 40: 1 - 48:35.
 - Zech 8:1-8, 12:1 - 14:21 - He will reign in truth, justice, righteousness.
3. **He will loose Satan for his final defeat**, Rev. 20:7-15; Ezek. 38-39.
 - Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:6; 12b-13; 14-16; 18-19 - Satan rebelled.
 - Rev. 20:11 - Satan's permanent end is the lake of (hell) fire.
4. **He will bring and end to sin: its person, presence, power**, Rev. 21:27.
 - Heb. 9:26-28; 10:10 - Jesus died once to put an end to sin.
 - Rev. 1:5; 7:14-17; 20:6, 14-15 - only those in Book of life shall receive eternal life.
5. **He will seal eternal redemption and judgment**, Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19
 - Mt. 25:1-12 - unprepared when bridegroom came, they were excluded
 - 2 Cor. 6:2 - Behold **now** is the day of salvation

Conclusion

This is the "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people," Lk 2:11-12. There was born in Bethlehem a Savior who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Whoever trusts Him by faith shall have forgiveness of sin now and everlasting life hereafter. Jesus came to seek and save sinners, once for all a ransom for many, Heb 9:28; 10:10. incipient