

CHRISTMAS 2021
MATTHEW 1:18-25
WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Matthew chapter 1 as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I find it interesting that in the days we are living in we think we are so smart, so intelligent. Far smarter than people that lived hundreds and thousands of years ago, or so we think.

And because we are so smart, we have developed all kinds of ideas of who Jesus is. Let me say this. If the ideas you have come up with about who Jesus is cannot be found in the Bible, you are wrong!

And yet, we see so many strange and bizarre ideas that are spoken of in regard to Jesus and not just by the unsaved world, but by those who profess to be Christian. And by their answers, I question that!

As I was praying about this study the Lord showed me that Matthew chapter 1 is the focus, and He also gave me this title and it is from that title that this story emerges.

The title is simple – ***WHAT CHILD IS THIS?***

And like I have said, there are many ideas out there about who Jesus is, what this child was to be about. But the only answer to that question is found in the Bible itself. It tells us who this child is, what He was to do and yet, because we think we are so smart, that we know better than God, we have come up with our own ideas, like I have said.

Before we get to our text this morning, I want to share with you a few ideas that have crept into the church today about – ***WHAT CHILD IS THIS?*** And then I will show you exactly who He is!

And please understand that I am not trying to offend anyone here this morning, but I am here to share with you the truth and expose the lies that are out there in regard to who Jesus really is!

WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Well, some will see – ***JESUS THE PSYCHOLOGIST!***

As strange as that sounds, when people read Isaiah 9:6 they see those words about Jesus, that He is the “**Wonderful, Counselor**” and thus, Psychology is for the church!

But that is not what this verse is saying. It is saying that we can trust our Wonderful Counselor Jesus Christ as He listens to our problems and guides us in the right direction according to His Word.

But you tell me if there is a difference to what our Lord has for us and what the worldly advice of Psychology has for us.

Let me just share a few of their teachings, that are also incorporated into what some call Christian Psychology, but it is the same as secular only they will add a few Bible verses here and there to make it look Christian. It is not!

Not only that but these same teachings have been brought into the church and it has not helped the church but hurt it. It has not brought healing but division. And when you listen to what psychology has to offer, I think you will see that this is in the church and the warnings that Dave Hunt and others gave some thirty years ago or so have come to pass because many were not listening!

Here are some of the things that psychology puts forth.

They believe that people are basically good and if you try hard enough you can improve yourself so you can enjoy more pleasure in your life!

The Bible tells us that none are good, not even one! So how is that Christian if it goes against what the Scriptures are saying? It is not!

Our current problems in life are the result of the environment from which we come from and the people in our past, be they parents, and most of the time they are, but others as well, who negatively influenced our life and affected our good unconscious that now controls our present behavior.

I am not making this up, this is what they believe and what they tell the people they are counseling. And families and relationships have been destroyed because of this false teaching in the church!

Make no mistake about it, the problem is sin, and we can try to blame everyone and everyone for our present behavior, Adam and Eve tried that one, but it does not work. You are responsible for your actions, and you are a new creation in Christ and that old life has passed away and you are now living a life that is based in Christ. Press on, don't go to the past to live!

Now here is the kicker. To fix our current problems we have to gain insight into our unconscious so we can find our past hurts and only a trained therapist can help us do that!

Let me say this, only God can fix us, and man can try all he wants, but God has what is best for us.

And think about it. Have you ever thought about a past experience and then shared it with someone who was with you, and you found out you got it wrong? I have and I am sure you have as well. That tells me sometimes we get the past wrong and if we are being influenced by a therapist, they can lead us to where they want us to go and that is very dangerous. I have seen it destroy families and relationships as I have said!

One writer summed it up like this. He wrote,

Psychology amounts to subjectively interpreting the reasons behind behaviors and subjectively developing ways to change these behaviors.

Since the theories of psychology have never been proven true by objective empirical evidence, we cannot consider psychology a science.

Psychologist Robert Rosenthal says, “There is no compelling evidence to convince us that we do understand human behavior very well.”

- Lisa & Ryan Bazler, Psychology Debunked, p. 11

Did you know that psychology literally means “*study of the psyche*” or “*study of the soul*”?

How can we study that? We can’t and listen to the conclusion that Paul Vitz made. He is an associate professor of psychology at New York University and in his book – *Psychology as a Religion*, he wrote,

Psychology has become a religion: a secular cult of the self. By this I mean an intensely held worldview, a philosophy of life or ideology.

More specifically, contemporary psychology is a form of secular humanism based on the rejection of God and the worship of self . . . Psychology as a religion exists, and it exists in strength throughout the United States.

- Paul Vitz, *Psychology as a Religion*, p. xii-xiii

And this religion of self has infiltrated the church and instead of dying to self, we are building self up.

As you can see, this idea of – *JESUS THE PSYCHOLOGIST* is false, this is not the Jesus of the Bible.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Well, some will see – *JESUS THE ENVIRONMENTALIST!*

First of all, let me say this. Yes, we are to care for our environment, but we are not to worship our environment.

Today, this whole idea of climate change is not new, it has been going around and around for years! And yet, the church has jumped on this bandwagon and is riding this false assumption! Listen carefully and I can go back and give you many examples of what was said in the past, but I will just share a few with you to show you this is not new.

Back in 1967 we see this headline – ***“Dire Famine Forecast by ’75”***

Back in 1969 we see this headline – ***“Foe of pollution Sees Lack of Time”*** and within 20 years ***“everybody will disappear in a blue steam.”***

In 1970 we see this – ***“Scientist predicts a new ice age by 21st century”***

And I can go on, but I won't. You see, that is what the world is saying and now, here we are in the 21st century and the church is jumping on this bandwagon of climate change, like I have said!

“In 2006, a group of over 300 senior evangelical leaders came together, convinced it is time for our country to help solve the problem of global warming. Notable signatories include Pastor Rick Warren, Pastor Bill Hybels, Rich Stearns (President of World Vision), and Paul Corts (Now President Emeritus of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities).”

The reason I list those names is because the influence they have on churches, on congregations and on students, training them up to believe this garbage of global warming.

Yes, the climate does change, but let's not come to wrong conclusions about why, which we have done for over 50 years of dire warnings and nothing, not even close to what they said!

Jesus did not come to save the planet, He came to save you and me, the people of this world. In fact, if you have read the Scriptures, you know things are going to change when Jesus sets up His Kingdom after the Tribulation Period and then He will create a new heaven and a new earth, the old heaven and earth will melt with fervent heat! (II Peter 3)

Yes, the world is worshiping nature, this planet, but why is the church? We are to worship God!

As you can see, this idea of – *JESUS THE ENVIRONMENTALIST* is false, this is not the Jesus of the Bible.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Well, some will see – ***JESUS THE INVESTMENT BANKER!***

What do I mean by that?

What some teach is that Jesus has come to make me rich, to make me prosperous!

And what these teachers mean is this. All you have to do is invest your money in the kingdom of God, which is another way of saying you are to give your money to them, these televangelists and when you do you will get a tremendous return on your investment!

Again, I am not going to go in depth on this, but I will give you a couple of examples to show you what this is about.

Joel Osteen said, ***“God wants us to prosper financially, to have plenty of money, to fulfill the destiny he has laid for us.”***

And this is from the back of a book by Kenneth Copeland. ***“Is prosperity truly God’s plan for you? Claim the physical and spiritual riches that are yours. Once you understand the plan of abundance God has designed, you’ll never again accept anything less. Through this scriptural study by Kenneth Copeland, you can be sure that when it comes to Prosperity – The Choice Is Yours.”***

So if I am not wealthy then it is my fault because God wants me to be rich, to prosper and it is my choice to be rich or to be poor! Wow, I didn’t know that was the reason that Jesus came, to make me rich.

Guess what folks, even the Son of Man was not rich, He did not have a place to lay down His head!

But these guys are doing very well, not the people giving but those that are receiving what people are giving.

Just to give you a few examples: Kenneth Copeland is worth 760 million dollars, Benny Hinn: Net Worth \$42 Million, Joel Osteen: Net Worth \$40 Million, Creflo Dollar: Net Worth \$27 Million.

Jesus came to save us from our sin, not to make us rich with material things. That is the love of money and that is wrong. Money is not wrong, but the love of it is and that is what we see with what these men are promoting!

As you can see, this idea of – ***JESUS THE INVESTMENT BANKER*** is false, this is not the Jesus of the Bible.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Well, some will see – ***JESUS THE SOCIAL REFORMER!***

Now some of you may not be aware of what social justice is all about but it is what has been brought forth over the last few years and is being taught to our children. Did Jesus stand for this, was He a social reformer like many in the church are saying?

In fact, many in the church believe that this ***“Jesus . . . went around speaking out against colonial imperialism, racism, sexism, injustices and the political corruption in the Roman Empire that favored the rich at the expense of the poor – and all of his colleagues felt the same way.”***

No, that is not the Jesus of the Bible. He did not go around preaching social reform or stand up for social justice, but He did go around and preach repentance from sin!

But what is social justice. Listen carefully. We are told,

“Social justice” is a term often thrown around, but very rarely defined, explained or even clearly understood in daily discourse. Yet a clear definition of this concept is necessary because there is indeed such a thing as ***social justice*** - and then there is ***justice***. . . . And I am sincerely alarmed when professed Christians not only claim “social justice” is what the Body of Christ is charged to pursue, but that they’d dare argue it’s what Jesus preached or supported during His earthly ministry.

According to Merriam Webster, “justice” is the impartial administration and maintenance of what is just. It involves “righteousness” “equitableness” (fairness), “impartiality” and “moral rightness”. We see *justice* demanded of God's people in Isaiah 1:17, Proverbs 31:8-9, Exodus 23:1-9, Leviticus 19:15, James 1:27 and elsewhere in the Scriptures.

Merriam Webster formally defines “social justice” as “a state or doctrine of egalitarianism” which is the notion that all social, economic and political “inequalities” must be removed from society. According to Dictionary.com, “social justice” is justice *in terms of* the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. THIS iteration of “justice” is NOT commanded in Scripture.

Justice pursues what is right according to an absolute, impartial standard.

Social justice pursues what is believed to be lacking for some based on what is believed to be possessed by others.

Justice is driven by what is morally acceptable, or what God says is right.

Social justice is driven by what is socially acceptable, or what the people say is right.

Justice is objective.

Social justice is subjective.

Justice involves matters that can potentially impact anyone.

Social justice involves matters that are believed to only impact specific groups.

- <https://bit.ly/3o3uCSu>

As you can see, this idea of – **JESUS THE SOCIAL REFORMER** is false, this is not the Jesus of the Bible.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS – Well, we believe that – **JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!**

Keep in mind that the title of this study comes from the Christmas carol written by William Dix, and this is how the song begins.

*What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

- William Dix, What Child is This

Think about that for a minute.

The moment He was born Mary and Joseph must have thought – **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

Yes, they were told by the angel, but I am sure that this was something that they pondered and wondered about!

And then there were the shepherds in the fields, and they too must have been wondering as they looked into this manger and saw this baby laying there - **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

Even the wise men, who came around a year or so later, as they saw this child, they too must have been wondering - **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

Make no mistake about it, this child is Almighty God who came to save us from our sins!

And that brings us to our study here in Matthew chapter 1 and we are going to begin reading in verse 18.

MATTHEW 1

VERSE 18

Here we are told that Mary and Joseph were a couple, and that Mary was Betrothed to Joseph.

What does that mean?

Well, for the Jews of that time, there were three steps to marriage.

First there was *THE ENGAGEMENT*. And this could take place when the children were very young and was usually arranged by their parents.

Then came this *BETROTHAL* period. And during this time the couple were known as husband and wife. It was like they were married but they had not consummated the marriage yet. If they wanted to break up during this time they would have to be divorced. This is the period of time that Joseph and Mary were in, and it could last up to a year.

And the last phase you might say is the *MARRIAGE* itself.

And what we see here is that this young girl, Mary, was betrothed to Joseph, and she is a virgin. That is not the problem. The problem is that Mary is pregnant!

Now Matthew does not give us a lot of details here, but Luke does in regard to how Mary found out about all of this.

In Luke 1:26-35 we are told, **“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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.’ Then Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know a man?’ And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”**

Now we read that and may think, *“Awesome!”*

But place yourself in Mary’s shoes. Can you imagine your fiancé or daughter coming to you and telling you they are pregnant!

“Hi honey or dad, guess what, I’m pregnant! No, don’t worry, it was by the Holy Spirit!”

And that is what Joseph had to face as Mary tells him the good news - a hard to believe story to say the least!

But it is the fulfillment of what Isaiah 7:14 says, **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”**

Why did God do it this way? Why could Joseph not be the biological father of Jesus?

I like what Spurgeon has to say about this. He wrote, *“There was no other way of his being born; for had he been of a sinful father, how should he have possessed a sinless nature? He is born of a woman, that he might be human; but not by man, that he might not be sinful.”*

Exactly! The sin nature is passed down through the father and not the mother!

Now, in hearing of this news, how is Joseph going to respond? And keep in mind that they did not have sexual relations and in his mind, he is thinking that she had an affair.

Let’s read on and see what happens and as you will see, Joseph was a good man.

VERSE 19

We don’t know a lot about Joseph except that he was a good man, and as he hears the news, he is trying to find a way to divorce Mary without making things worse for her.

You see, he could have made a spectacle of her, he could have had her put to death for committing this sin according to the Law – stoned to death!

As one writer put it, *“Can you think of a greater test of a man’s love for a woman? On the one hand, he might have imagined a wicked tryst [encounter] with another man - but this was not the Mary that Joseph knew and loved. On the other hand, how could he really believe the story she’d told him about the angelic announcement? Joseph didn’t know what to think. His heart was broken. His plans ruined. His pride bruised, but he still loved this Hebrew maiden. . . .”*

And listen to what Joseph has planned, what he wants to do to take care of this problem with the woman that he loved. It says that Joseph “**was minded to put her away secretly.**” And the idea here is that of breaking this engagement by divorce. And Joseph wanted to do this as secretly as possible as not to hurt Mary, but of course people would find out.

Imagine all that is going through the mind of Joseph, who loved Mary very much.

And I love what the Lord does next.

VERSES 20-21

As you can see, this was heavy upon the heart of Joseph. He knew what had to be done but I don't think he really wanted to do it.

But the story that Mary gave him was just too hard to believe!

But look at what the Lord does here. He sends “**an angel of the Lord**” to speak to him. This is not “*The angel of the Lord,*” it is not Jesus obviously, but most likely the angel Gabriel, the messenger angel you might say.

And this angel confirms to Joseph what Mary told him was the truth, and obviously he needed to hear these words. And not only did God tell Joseph that, but He also directed him to go through with the marriage!

Not only that but this angel gives to Joseph the name that they should call Him, ***JESUS!***

This was a very popular name but now it is not just a name, it is a reality of what that name means!

You see, Jesus is the Greek word from the Hebrew word Y'shua or what we say, Joshua.

And this word means, ***YAHWEH IS OUR SALVATION*** or ***YAHWEH HAS BECOME OUR SALVATION.***

It is just as Peter proclaimed in Acts 4:12, **“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

Now let’s think about this for a minute.

Did Jesus come as the world’s greatest psychologist? No, He did not!

Did Jesus come as the world’s most passionate environmentalist? No, He did not!

Did Jesus come as our investment banker? No, He did not!

Did Jesus come as our social reformer? No, He did not!

Then why in the world did Jesus come?

He came to save us from our sins! That is the problem folks and many miss that. He came to save us from the penalty of sin and then from the power of sin in our lives and one day from the presence of sin!

It is as one writer put it, *“Salvation from sins is an element in the Old Testament hope (e.g. Isaiah 53; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:24-31) and in later Messianic expectation . . . but not the dominant one. Its isolation here warns the reader not to expect this Messiah to conform to the more popular hope of a national liberator.”* (France)

He came as our Savior and yet, many don’t see the need. They think that they are good, but the Bible tells us that there are none who are good, not even one! (Romans 3:10)

They think that they are maybe not perfect but not really that bad, not sinners, and yet, the Bible tells us that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God! (Romans 3:23)

We are told in Proverbs 20:9, **“Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin’?”**

And in Proverbs 30:12 we are told, **“There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.”**

Doesn't that fit our world today! We feel we are good. We feel that we are pure in our own eyes, that we have no sin and yet, the Bible tells us the exact opposite.

It is our sin that separates us from God and thus, ***“What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”***

VERSES 22-23

Keep in mind that Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience and thus, he wants to show them that Jesus is the Messiah, the One they have been waiting for.

And we see that here in Matthew 1:22 with the phrase, **“that it might be fulfilled.”**

Again, Matthew's intention was to show the Jewish people and us that Jesus is the fulfillment of what the Old Testament prophets spoke of regarding the Messiah!

First of all, we see the quote from Isaiah 7:14, that **“a virgin shall be with child.”**

The Hebrew word for **“virgin”** is ***ALMAH***, which means a young, unmarried woman of sexual maturity. Now in those days she would have been considered a virgin, not so today.

If Isaiah used the Hebrew word ***BETHULAH***, this word is sometimes used in the Old Testament of a married woman who is not a virgin.

So the word that Isaiah used is correct, the problem comes when people want to deny the virgin birth!

And when you think about it, if this is not speaking of a virgin, what kind of sign would it be?

It would not be a sign at all for many young women are pregnant but there has only been one, Mary, who had the seed of God implanted in her womb that was a virgin! ***That is a sign!***

But, because that word **ALMAH** can be used of a young, unmarried woman, some like to argue against the virgin birth of Christ because of the Hebrew word Isaiah used. Yes, she was young. Yes, she was unmarried. But she was pregnant! That is what they think, that is how they see this word being used. But it is not to be used that way and the Jews clearly understood that. Let me show you what I mean.

When the Septuagint translation came out in around 250 B. C., that is the Hebrew Scriptures translated into Greek, they translated the Hebrew word **ALMAH** into the Greek word **PARTHENOS**, which means – **VIRGIN!** I think that is pretty clear, the Jews who were translating the Scriptures knew what that word meant!

Not only that, but when we get to the New Testament, the Holy Spirit once again makes things very clear.

What we read here in Matthew 1:23, a quote of Isaiah 7:14, He uses once again the Greek word **PARTHENOS**, which means – **VIRGIN!**

I think that is very clear unless you don't want to believe!

Spurgeon said of this passage in Isaiah 7:14 of the virgin birth, that it is ***“One of the most difficult in all the Word of God. It may be so; I certainly did not think it was until I saw what the commentators had to say about it, and I rose up from reading them perfectly confused.”***

God is clear, it is man who is confused and confuses others!

Notice once again what we are told in verse 23 of Matthew chapter 1.

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

His name is Jesus, which means ***“Yahweh is salvation,”*** but the reality of what was before them was Immanuel or ***“God with us!”***

Jesus is never called Immanuel in the Scriptures; it is not His name, but it is a descriptive title of what His earthly ministry was all about - ***GOD WITH US!***

Now there are some who still try to deny the deity of Jesus Christ, they try and tell us that He is not Almighty God but ***“a god.”***

Foolishness!

Notice what it says, ***IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US!***

It does not say, ***“A god with us!”***

And what Isaiah spoke some 700 years earlier, had now come to pass! Mary is pregnant with Jesus and will give birth to the Messiah, the Savior of the world!

This is so important for us to understand. You see, He could not be God with us – Immanuel unless He was virgin born.

Why is that?

Because, like I have said, sin was passed from the father to their children. That means if Jesus would have had an earthly father, He would not have been born sinless and thus, He would be just another ordinary man, a sinner like all of us. But He wasn't!

Only God can forgive sins and only God, the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world can accomplish that work!

Look at what we are told in John chapter 1, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

And Paul lays it all out for us, what Jesus took from us and what He gave us as He tells us in II Corinthians 5:21, “**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”

God became flesh, He dwelt among us, He was without sin, inherited or acquired sin, and because of that, because God is with us, our Immanuel, we can call Him Jesus because He can save us from our sins!

So Joseph is told all of this in a dream. How is he going to respond to this?

We don't have to guess. Let's read on and see.

VERSES 24-25

You have to love this man named Joseph. Again, we don't know a lot about him, but what a man of faith.

We see here that he was “**aroused from sleep**” and as he wakes up, he obeyed what the angel told him to do. He took Mary to be his wife!

That is faith in action. He did not understand how this all took place, but by faith he obeyed the Lord who spoke through this angel, and we too need to obey what the Lord is telling us, we need to listen to Him through His Word!

Not only did Joseph take Mary as his wife, but they called their child, their Son, Jesus! Again, that is faith, obedience to the Lord!

Now the other thing we need to look at here is Mary because there are many false doctrines attributed to her. One of them is that she never had any more children. But, as one writer put it, *“The marriage was thus formally completed, but not consummated before the birth of Jesus. The Greek expression for not until would normally suggest that intercourse did take place after the end of this period. . . . There is no biblical warrant for the tradition of the ‘perpetual virginity’ of Mary.”* (France)

Keep in mind that this false doctrine did not appear on the scene until the fifth century!

And listen to what the Scriptures tell us about Mary having children! Mark 6:1-3 tells us, **“Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, ‘Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’ And they were offended at Him.”**

Don’t let church tradition be more important than what God’s Word has to say! (Other places to look on this issue are, Matthew 12:46, Matthew 13:55-56, John 7:3, 5, and Galatians 1:19)

Don’t miss the point of this day. Let me share this with you. We are told,

Take the year 1809. The international scene was tumultuous. Napoleon was sweeping through Austria; blood was flowing freely. Nobody then cared about babies. But the world was overlooking some terribly significant births.

For example, William Gladstone was born that year. He was destined to become one of England’s finest statesman.

That same year, Alfred Tennyson was born to an obscure minister and his wife. The child would one day greatly affect the literary world in a marked manner.

On the American continent, Oliver Wendell Holmes was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

And not far away in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic, life.

It was also in that same year that a physician named Darwin and his wife named their child Charles Robert.

And that same year produced the cries of a newborn infant in a rugged log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. The baby's name? Abraham Lincoln.

If there had been news broadcasts at that time, I'm certain these words would have been heard: 'The destiny of the world is being shaped on an Austrian battlefield today.'

But history was actually being shaped in the cradles of England and America.

Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of the Savior.

- Adapted from Charles Swindoll

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

It was not ***JESUS THE PSYCHOLOGIST!***

It was not ***JESUS THE ENVIRONMENTALIST!***

It was not ***JESUS THE INVESTMENT BANKER!***

It was not ***JESUS THE SOCIAL REFORMER!***

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

JESUS THE MESSIAH! JESUS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!

And here's the thing. He can't save you from your sins until He becomes Immanuel to you or God with you and God in you! I am speaking of the new birth.

Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."**

You see, you are dead in sin and unless you repent of your sin and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life, you will die in your sins!

I don't know if you have noticed this or not, but we are living in very dark times. We are living in very troublesome times. And I think we can agree that this plays out politically, morally and even spiritually!

How can we as Christian's cope with all that is coming down the pike?

By clinging to God, by trusting in His Word and understand we might not know all that the future holds, but we know who holds our future and that is Jesus!

And God has told us that He will never leave us, He will never forsake us, He will never stop being our God. And that means no matter what you are going through, no matter how dark things may get, keep reminding yourself of the fact that God loves you more than you will ever know, and He will see you through those times!

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Like I have said, He is ***JESUS THE MESSIAH! JESUS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!***

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas, remembering what this day is truly about, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And I will close with this. If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; ***But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior!***