

## CHRISTMAS PRESENCE: "JESUS SIGN"

**THESIS:** Follow The Sign

**TEXT:** Luke 2:21-24

**OPEN:** Who does Jesus save and what does He save those people from and for?

In **Luke 2:21-24** let's discover how the presence of Jesus is the sign of love and fulfillment from God.

**Luke 2:21** *"On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived."*

**Luke 1:30-35, 37** "The angel said, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus'... 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God...For nothing is impossible with God.'"

**Quote from C.S. Lewis:** "Some people seem to have an idea that belief in miracles arose at a period when men were so ignorant of the course of nature that they did not perceive a miracle to be contrary to it. This objection to the virgin birth can be refuted in the text of *Matthew 1* itself. When Joseph discovered that his fiancée Mary was going to have a baby, he initially decided to divorce her. Why? Because he knew that in the ordinary course of nature, a woman does not have a baby unless she's been with a man."

**Matthew 1:19-20** "Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

What makes the miraculous conception and birth of Jesus Christ unique is not only the virginity of it, but the *divinity* of it. This means God is His Father—not man. Man is sinful and thus unable to save himself. However, God's nature is perfect, holy, and sinless. Therefore, Jesus was manifested in human likeness to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and save those who receive Him as Lord and Savior.

**1 Timothy 2:4-6** "God our Savior wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men."

The term "mediator" implies that two parties are at odds. Scripture teaches that humanity was alienated from God because of sin. Jesus sacrificially died on the cross to make up (atone) for the sins of mankind. By accepting God's terms of pardon through Jesus Christ, a person may be at peace with the Lord—reconciled to Him for eternal life.

**Ephesians 3:12** "In (Christ Jesus) and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."

As Christians ("in Him"), we're granted free access to God because of our faith in who Jesus is and what He's done for us as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

\***Approach** (Greek: *prosagoge*) means access through the assistance of another. It is used of a solemn introduction

into the presence of a king.

\***Esther 4:11** (Esther to Mordecai): "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any

man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that

he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life..."

**\*Historical:** "The etiquette of the Persian court was very strict. Except the "seven princes," no one could approach the king unless introduced by a court usher. To come into the king's presence without being summoned

was a capital crime. The intruder was instantly put to death by the attendants unless the king, by extending his golden

scepter, showed his approval of the act (*Manners & Customs of the Bible*, p. 205).

**\*Ezra 9:15** "O Lord, God of Israel, You are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before You in

our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence."

Jesus Christ is the only one who can introduce a person into the presence of God.

**\*John 14:6** "Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

Who does Jesus save and what does He save those people from and for?

**Matthew 1:21-23** "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him 'Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us.'"

**Acts 2:38 (KJV)** "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy (Spirit)."

- Remission releases a person from a legal obligation. It cancels the penalty of a crime though being guilty. The penalty for sin is death and eternal damnation in hell—separation from God and all that is good forever.
- Repenting and being immersed in water (baptized) is the means a believer in Christ receives God's pardon for his or her sins (*Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1-5; Galatians 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:20-21*).

What is the "sign" from God that He loves us and that He fulfills His promises?

**John 3:16-18** "For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only begotten Son."

**Illustration:** (*foxnews.com* story "Notorious Gang Leader Now Preaches Jesus")

**CLOSE:** Follow the sign of God's love for you which is Jesus His Son. This is how you may know He loves you.