

-CHRISTMAS PARADOXES-

TEXT: ISAIAH 7:14

INTRO:

1. -What is Christmas, is it really important?

-First of all the importance of Christmas is not contained in the date, Dec. 25th.

-Do you know actually what Dec. 25th, really is?

-The date the pagan holiday of the birth date of the unconquered s-u-n, which is 93 million miles up in the sky.

-It was celebrated 1,000 years prior to the birth of Christ.

-During this time, the pagans held two weeks of feasts

-prayed

-had special music

-had gift giving

-lighted candles

-had green trees - they decorated with gold and silver - See Jeremiah 10:1-4.

-The holiday was christianized in 336 A.D. by Constantine, the Roman emperor and declared Christ's birthday to be Dec., 25th and subsequently an official Roman holiday.

-We don't know really when Jesus was born.

-A more accurate guess based on scripture would be the month of October, perhaps September.

-But certainly not Dec. 25th.

-So, Christmas is not contained in the date.

2. -Christmas is not contained in the name.

-Christmas is a short form of CHRIST MASS, a catholic mass which grew out of a specific feast day established in 1038 A.D.

-Which has nothing to do with the scriptures.

3. -Christmas is not contained in Santa Claus.

-I know that this is a heartbrake for some of you folks.

-The idea of Santa Claus is the result of a 4th century bishop's activity.

-His name was Saint Nicholas and he gave his possessions to the poor and supposedly brought back to life two dead children. - allegedly.

-Thus he was a giver of gifts and who was particularly important to children.

-Saint Nicholas was important in Holland but eventually the idea perpetuated in America by Clement Moore and his poem - "The Night Before Christmas", published in 1823.

4. -Christmas is not contained in the cards.

-Christmas cards started about 100 years ago.

-This year alone hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent on Christmas cards and the same amount of money to mail them.

5. -Christmas is not contained in the spirit of giving.

-In modern day America it is more the spirit of indulgence.

-Over \$10 Billion will be spent on 1 1/2 Billion gifts, all wrapped up in \$150 Million worth of paper.

6. -Christmas is not contained in the tree as we noted earlier.

-They were using trees prior to the birth of Christ to celebrate a pagan holiday.

-We read what the prophet Jeremiah had to say about it.

7. -Then how much of Christmas is Christian?

-Frankly, none of it.

-None of it is Biblical.

-None of it is commanded by the Lord.

-None of its is Apostolic.

-None of it was observed by the early church

-Absolutely none of it!

-Well, is it wrong to observe Christmas?

-Well, not necessarily

-Not if we observe three things-

-1) Recognize nothing sacred about the day.

-2) It can be an opportunity, to enjoy the time with family and friends and share our love and concern for one another, that is fine, wonderful!

-3) Most importantly, if we take advantage of the opportunity to give the world the truth, about the Lord Jesus Christ, then let's celebrate it!

-It can be an opportunity, a vehicle to communicate to people what the truth is about the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. -For those who know the Lord, Christmas should be like every other day, a celebration!

-Christmas should not be a time restricted to giving gifts.

-A Christian should know about giving gifts all year long - Amen!

9. -The first time Jesus came, he came in a veiled form as a child.
-The next time he comes, it will be different, he will be recognized by all.

-The first time he came a star marked his arrival.
-The next time he comes, the heavens will be lit by his glory!

-The first time he came, wise men and shepherds brought him gifts.
-The next time he comes, he will bring gifts and rewards for his own!

-The first time he came there was no room in the inn.
-The second time he comes, there will not be room enough to contain his glory!

-The first time he came only a few attended his arrival.
-The second time he comes, the Apostle Paul tells us that every eye shall see him.

-The first time he came, he came as a baby.
-The second time he comes, he will come as a Sovereign KING and LORD over all the earth.

10. -What is Christmas?
-For some it is peace and good will toward men, because they have a peace that passeth all understanding.

-For the world it tis a time of mass confusion, furiously running around.

-Do you realize at Christmas time, the national suicide rate rises?

-The first tiem Christmas was a poor one, with a manger and a stable.

-Today, Christmas is a dazzling display of wealth beyond belief.

-Once men came to worship Jesus.

-But today, fools have parties of wickedness, ignoring all that Jesus came to accomplish.

-That is all an introduction to say Christmas is full of paradoxes.

-I thought about the Paradoxes of Christmas.

-I though about the great paradox of Christmas, Jesus Christ and just what he is.

-As i began to look at some of the O.T. prophecies and began to contemplate some of the things that I came across in the N.T.

-I relaized the Word of God is absolutely loaded with paradoxical prophesy about the Lord Jesus Christ that appeared to be contradictory by the world's standards.

-Let us look at some of them today:

I. -ISAIAH 7:14

1. -The Bible says a virgin shall conceive.
-The Lord was to give a supernatural sign.

-A child would be born whose name would be "Immanuel"
-means - "God with us"

-I don't know if you ever consider that it is a paradox.
-How could a baby be born of a virgin?

-How could a child be born of a human mother, that was God?

-Did you ever stop and think about that thing.

-The prophets were told to write down things, that they couldn't any more comprehend or understand that the man in the moon.

-This shows that this is the Word of God, because the prophets weren't trying to write down something that made sense or appealed to the human intellect.

-They were just writing down what God told them to write down.

-Even if it was far beyond their intelligence or grasp of their imagination.

-We aren't any smarter than the prophets were, we just have mote light, we have the whole written revelation of God, the Bible.

-That Bible said that the man-God would be born of a virgin - amazing!!

II. TURN TO ISAIAH 9:6-7

-What a paradox, how could a child be born who was the God of eternity?

-How could a human child be God?

-Don't you think when the prophet, Isaiah was told by the Holy Ghost to write that thing, that he sat there, scratching his head?

//-Don't you think, he pondered that and said, "That is the wildest thing, I heard in my life."

-But he wrote it down anyway.

-It gets even wilder, the person Isaiah was told to write about - read again Isa. 9:6 - from "his name shall be called...." and all of vs 7.

-Isaiah is told to write down a contradictory statement, take a 180 degree turn from the one we just read in Isaiah 53.

-Please Turn to Isaiah 53.

-On the one hand we read about a child will be born unto a virgin and the government shall be upon his shoulder, he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

-Then read Isaiah 53: 1-2.

//-No beauty in the guy who is going to be called Wonderful, Counsellor, etc.

-That's a paradox.

-Read Isa. 53:3

-He will be despised, the man whose Government shall be upon his shoulder.

-Isn't that strange?

-A man of sorrow and acquainted with grief, who was despised.

-Don't you know Isaiah scratched his head and said "I can't figure it out!"

-But he wrote it down anyway.

-Why did a man write down something by the world's standards didn't make sense?

-Because God told him that's why!!!

III. TURN TO MT 1: 20-23 & LUKE 1: 26-35

1.-We are told he was conceived of the Holy Ghost.

-Means he has no human father.

-Means he has no human blood.

-He had blood because he was a man.

-He had blood, because without the shedding of blood there is no remissions of sins.

-He had blood because the scriptures tells us - "in whom we have redemption
through

his blood even the forgiveness of sins."

-He had blood because the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son cleanses us form all sins.

-But he didn't have human blood.

-I know this because it took medical science until the 20th century to find it out.

-God knew it all along.

-They teach that in every medical school in this country.

-They teach that in every nurisng schooling in America.

-They teach it in Howle's textbook of Physiology - page 884-886.

-They teach it in William's Practice Of Obstetrics, page 133.

-They teach that you got your blood from your father.

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-That's what it says.

-If you don't agree, then you don't agree with every doctor in this country.

-More important you disagree with the book, the Bible.

-You see this Book taught that long before science figured it out.

-The idea is let science and education catch-up later, - stick with the Book!!!!

-Well, if he didn't get his blood from an earthly father, where did he get his blood?

-See Acts 20:28.

-He got his blood from God!!!

-That is why the verse doesn't say Jesus Christ's blood but God's blood.

2. -Blood is an amazing thing, if you stop and think about it.

-The blood is fluid and mobile, reaches all parts of the body, providing nourishment.

-The red blood cells number about 5 million per cubic millimeter and travel through the lungs and picks up oxygen and delivers it to the brain.

-It picks up carbon dioxide and waste and deposits them in the kidneys, the bowels, etc.

-This whole process takes 23 seconds.

-The blood is an amazing thing.

-The white blood cells number, 4 to 7 thousand per cubic millimeter and can triple in a short space to combat infection.

-Do you know how the doctor knows when you are sick, you have an infection?

-He takes a blood test on you and if the white count up, he knows something is wrong.

3. -As marvelous as the blood is there is something wrong with it.

-The Bible says in Leviticus 17, "the life of the flesh is in the blood"

-Now, that is a paradox, the thing that is keeping you alive is the same thing that is killing you.

-You can't live without it but it is going to kill you.

-Do you know why?

-Because it has an innate disease.

-That disease is called sin.

-Someday, you will die because of that disease.

-All flesh dies.

-What is the remedy folks?

-The only remedy, God said was my Son shall be born of a virgin.

-All of sudden he has a different blood line besides you and I.

-He was conceived of a virgin

-When he was God manifest in the flesh, his blood travelled 23 seconds like our's throughout the body.

-Because his blood was different, unique, set-apart because it came from a different source, when God's blood was shed for you and I it was an atoning blood, it was a pure blood.

-Even as the O.T. saint was commanded to get the pure lamb, the lamb without blemish or spot.

-So, John the Baptist said of Jesus - "Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world."

-So, there is a great paradox in the virgin birth.

IV. THERE IS A PARADOX OF JESUS BEING THE JEHOVAH OF THE O.T.

1. TURN TO EXOD. 3:14 COMPARE WITH JOHN 8:58 -- Grinds the gears of the Jews

2. ISAIAH 40:1 - O.T. - Jehovah- God, telling the Jew to be comforted, that he would comfort them.

-Jehovah tells where the source of their coming comfort would come from

-V3- read

-In N.T. we are told John the Baptist the direct fulfillment of that prophesy

-Read MT 3:3 - you see Israel comfort was to come from Jehovah and John the Baptist was to announce this comfort be the forerunner. In MT 3:3 - We John fulfilling this prophecy and speaking about Jesus-

-Therefore, Jesus is Jehovah spoken about in Isa. 40:3

3. -Compare Lev. 19:3 with MT. 12:8

- God says "I am the Lord your God - reference to Sabbath Day - Lev. 19:3
- Jesus says he is the Lord even of the Sabbath.
- Again, showing Jesus is Jehovah of the O.T.

4. -I have given you three but there are literally hundreds of these.

-You can go down through and compare the N.T. with the O.T., and the comparison just keeps popping up, and popping up, Jesus Christ claims to be the O.T. Jehovah God.

- No wonder the Pharisees were stumped.
- I'm not excusing them.

-You remember they were always trying to corner Jesus with a question.

-So, Jesus put a question to them one day. - See MT. 22:41-46

-He said - "What think ye of Christ, whose son is he?"

-Their answer over in MT22, was he was the son of David.

-They were anxious to claim that Davidic lineage, that Davidic Covenant.

-They said in other words that Christ, the Messiah, that we are expecting to return and reestablish the kingdom, that we lost back in the Babylonian captivity, he is the son of David, that is who he is.

-Jesus said them, If David calls him Lord and he did in Acts 2:34, then how could he be the son?

- They did not know how to answer him.
- In fact it says no man was able to answer him a word.

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- They didn't know how to respond to that, no human father.
- How can one be born in the seed of a woman, when a woman has no seed?

- How can that be?
- And at the same time be the creator of that woman.

- There is only one book in the world, you can get that stuff in,
- The one I hold in my hand.

-That is what Christmas is all about.

5. -No wonder the prophets wondered.

-O.T. prophets were confused, they did not profess to understand it all.

-They just sat down and wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

-They wrote the Messiah would be a conqueror and rule the world.

-A Savior and deliverer of men.

-And they would write he would be a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief, lowly, rejected, despised.

-They wrote the Messiah would be the King of glory and heaven the eternal Savior and all of the nations will bow to him.

-Yet, they wrote there would be no beauty in him, that men would desire.

-They wrote he would be a servant, he would be bloodied, suffering, crucified, and dead.

6. -You might say, all of this proves what?

-I am going to show you.

-What the prophets couldn't distinguish, Paul tells us later.

-What the prophets couldn't get figured out, was the distinction between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ.

-That's what they couldn't separate because didn't have all the vital information to do it.

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-Please turn to I Peter 1:10-12.

-The O.T. prophets says a paradox, they couldn't distinguish between the first coming and the second coming of Christ.

-See V11.

-"when it testified beforehand the suffering of Christ (1st coming) and the glory (2nd coming) should follow"

-You see folks it is the cross first and the crown second.

7. -Do you know why so many people today are unconcerned about the real meaning of Christmas.

-//Because the only way they see Jesus Christ, is a lowly babe in a manger.

-//The only way they see Jesus Christ, is good fella running around healing a few folks and doing some nice things for people.

-//The only way they see Jesus Christ, is perhaps a bloody bruised, and beaten crucified man hanging on a cross.

-Everytime they walk into hospitals, places like that where they have him hanging on a crucifix on a wall.

-They have imbedded that concept in their mind.

8. -I may recommend to you today, to get the other side of the picture.

-May I suggest to you because you have available some light to you that the O.T. prophets couldn't sort out.

-He came once, and yes he was despised and rejected of men, a man acquainted with grief.

-He bore our sorrows, that's true.

-Ladies and gentlemen, he is coming back!

-When he comes back it isn't going to be isn't Jesus wonderful.

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--//It isn't going to be let's have a court battle over whether we can put a nativity scene on a public park or not!!!

-//Because that Bible says when he comes back, every eye shall see him!!!!

-If you don't have the right handle on Christmas, then you need to take a look at what Jesus Christ is coming back as.

-This world is in such a mess.

-It is headed for calamity.

-There is no other recourse but for Jesus to come back.

CONCLUSION:

-Now, all of the prophecies in the Bible about the Lord Jesus Christ seems to be a great paradox.

-Yet, if you examine those things, it makes perfect sense.

-In fact, it is the only logical explanation why things operate and will continue to operate.

-I don't have any explanation outside of this Book.

-This Book is all the explanation, I have.

-It is all right here - Amen

-Let us stand for prayer.