

“FOR THIS CAUSE I WAS BORN”

INTRODUCTION

- A. In and of itself, contemplating the birth of Christ is, objectively, good, provided one rids his thoughts of the trappings of uninspired religious traditions, such as the birth occurring on December 25th, or the magi arriving the very night of His birth, or that there were three magi.
- B. While Jesus’ birth was a miracle of the highest order, we should not content ourselves with the infant Jesus. Rather, we should dwell on **why** He was born at all. He gave several reasons, some of which we consider herein.

I. “I SHOULD BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH”

A. **John 18:37**

Jesus was delivered up to Pilate on accusations he was a threat to the empire, so that was the governor’s line of questioning. The Lord assured Pilate he was no threat to him or Caesar. He was born to testify the truth.

B. **1st John 4:6**

Truth necessarily implies the existence of error, which, axiomatically, must be opposed.

C. **John 14:6**

Jesus not only spoke truth; He **is** truth. He personifies truth. He embodies truth.

II. “FOR THE FALL AND RISING OF MANY”

A. **Luke 2:21-35**

The week after he was born, an inspired man named Simeon scooped Him up in the temple and foretold that He was destined for the fall and rising of many.

B. **Some Fall**

1. **Matthew 10:34-39**

While angels did declare “*peace on earth*” when He was born, Jesus made clear that was no absolute. He brought a sword that divides family.

2. **Luke 12:49-53**

In a parallel passage, He referred to this division as a fire to be kindled.

3. **John 9:39**

He brings judgment!

C. **Others Rise**

1. **John 3:17; 10:10; 12:47**

He came to save and to give life in abundance!

2. **Luke 19:10**

Salvation for lost souls is His purpose.

3. **1st John 3:5, 8; 4:14**

He came to take away sin, to destroy the devil’s works, and to save us.

III. **“TO CALL SINNERS TO REPENTANCE”**

A. **Mark 2:16-17**

He’s not going to save us if we ignore His call to repentance.

B. **Luke 11:32; Jonah 3:5-10**

He said the Ninevites repented when Jonah preached and that amounted to turning away from evil.

C. **Matthew 11:20-24**

Without repentance, destruction is sure.

D. **Luke 15:8-10**

But with repentance, even the angels rejoice. Remember, they were rejoicing when Jesus was born, and this is why He was born!

IV. **“I MUST PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD”**

A. **Luke 4:42-44**

Some folks want a Jesus who's not so "preachy," but preaching is one of the reasons He came to earth.

B. Luke 4:16-21

His preaching had been foretold by Isaiah.

C. Mark 16:15-16

Immediately prior to His departure from this world, He commissioned His apostles to preach to the world salvation through faith and baptism.