

“What’s in a Name?”

Matthew 1:18-25

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

December 23, 2012

To appreciate the significance of baby Jesus, we must understand the:

A. Meaning of His name.

Matthew 1:21

B. Old Testament prophecies.

Matthew 1:22-23

“...the probability of fulfilling forty-eight prophecies was one chance in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion! Our minds can’t comprehend a number that big. This is a staggering statistic that’s equal to the number of minuscule atoms in a trillion, trillion, trillion, billion universes the size of our universe! The odds alone say it would be impossible for anyone to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies.”

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christmas*,
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2005, p. 82.

C. Incarnation, that Jesus was God.

Matthew 1:23

“It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christians revelation. ‘The Word became flesh’ (John 1:14); God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changes and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation.”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*,
InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1973, p. 53.

“The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard, or will hear.”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*,
InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1973, p. 63.

Available at the Resource Center in the Lobby:

Bibles

Why Christmas? by Nicky Gumbel

A small book that answers the big question, “Why do we celebrate Christmas?”

More Than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell

“The Life of Jesus of Nazareth continues to shape our world 2,000 years later. *More Than a Carpenter* will tell you why.”

—John Ortberg

The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel

A journalist investigates the identity of the Child in the Manger.

Miracle Maker: Story of Jesus DVD for children

The Life of Jesus DVD