

Introduction

The birth of Christ is a very lovely and interesting event:

- (i) Inn – manger – deeply humble
- (ii) Shepherds – ordinary man – devout men – the appearance of the angel: what words! what a sight!
- (iii) The wise men – a mystery: Babylon? / Persia? / Arabia?
The star sent by God – amazing!

1. There is always the danger that we make it sentimental – a myth or legend. It is history – real history ("Herod the King").
This made very clear:
 - (i) Matthew 1
 - (ii) Luke 3
 - (iii) "Archelaus did reign in Judea" (cruel son of Herod)
 - (iv) Luke 3:1-2: beginning of Christ's ministry – every name possible to identify the time just before Christ began to preach (C.27AD).
This is why we have BC/AD. It is a real fact in real time:
Jesus Christ was born.
2. But now, why was he born? Who was he? Why is his coming so important? This is what John makes clear in these words – the Prologue (this Gospel is a good place to start reading the Bible).
John answers these vitally important questions. See v.1:
"In the beginning...Word...God".
 - (i) Christ is called the WORD because he is a message from God (John 3:16).
 - (ii) His origin is in heaven ("with God")
 - (iii) His identity is divine ("was God")
3. There are 3 aspects to understand:
 - 1) He is a King: His kingdom is the church – texts – He protects it – governs it – promotes it – perfects it: "I will build" (on

Himself).

- 2) He is a Saviour: man's real problem is his own evil heart. Who can altar it?
 - 3) He is a Judge: This is very fitting as he is God and Man – perfectly suited to judge the world. He judges all men, not just Jews or Christians. Listen to this: Matthew 25:31-32.
 4. Look at the condition of people in the world: crime – marital infidelity – irreligion, kidnapping, terrorism.
How can people be lifted out of drink, drugs, gambling and misery?
Can "democracy" do it? Parliaments / laws / schools / better housing...?
No. What is needed is someone who has the power to change man himself.
 5. This is what Christ can do: Look at this Gospel: Nicodemus in chap. 3 / woman of Samaria – chap. 4 / Blind Man in chap. 9.
 6. – John puts it helpfully: Sic. chapter 1:12-13.
This is why Christ came into the world: "sons of God"!!
- Q.** Have you received him?
Are you a member of his Kingdom and of his Church?

CONCLUSION

"The Son of God became the Son of Man so that the sons of men might become the sons of God."

PSALM

110: 1 – 5

113: 1 – 8

89: 15 - 17