

## “The **CHRIST** of **CHRIST**mas”

Revelation 5:1-7; Luke 1:26-33, ESV

### Reading the Text and Gaining Attention:

*<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed<sup>to</sup> to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”<sup>to</sup> <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the **throne** of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will **reign** over the house of Jacob forever, and of his **kingdom** there will be no end.”*

**Next Sunday is December 25**, Christmas, the day we celebrate the birth of **Jesus Christ**, the **Savior** and **Lord, Immanuel**- God with Us.

I absolutely relish when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. It is an ideal day to come to the house of God. It is both **Christmas and the Lord's Day** combined!

I hope you will plan to be in your place next Sunday as the church gathers to worship and celebrate the **CHRIST** of **CHRISTMAS**.

The **purpose of the message** this morning is to urge you to think carefully and deeply about the **CHRIST** of **CHRISTMAS**.

You well know that Christmas is about so much more than:

Christmas trees

Presents under those trees

Decorated homes

Family gatherings

Shopping

Christmas music

Family Traditions

For most of us, **Christmas can be hectic**, stressful, and wearisome. The **planning**, the coordinating, the

**traveling**, the **spending**, the cooking, the **cleaning**...it can be relentless and, if you are not **careful** and **intentional**, may unknowingly **distract you away** from the extraordinary significance of Christmas.

So, my heart's desire this morning is **to drive a stake** down. **To clarify. To anchor** and hold us fast amidst the crashing waves of distraction. I want to elevate before you this morning the **CHRIST** of **CHRISTMAS**...from the **Word of God!**

At the risk of **overstatement**, this may be the most important message I have preached all year.

**The portrait of Jesus in Scripture is so deep and so rich that it defies human ability to grasp it exhaustively.**

We begin by looking at **Revelation 5:1-7**.

*5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, <sup>4</sup> and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe*

*of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”<sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.*

In these magnificent verses, **John the Revelator**, portrays Jesus as:

The **Lion** of Judah

The **Root** of David

The **Conqueror**

The **Lamb** that was slain

The **only One worthy** to take the scroll from the right hand of God seated on the throne.

In the **Gospel of Matthew** Jesus is revealed as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies regarding the coming of God’s Anointed, the Messiah.

In the **Gospel of Mark**, we see Jesus as He blazes across the landscape of Palestine revealing Himself to be extraordinarily powerful by performing marvelous miracles authenticating His unique, unparalleled power as the God/man.

## **The Gentile Physician/careful historian Luke**

paints Jesus as the **One sent of God** to save repenting and believing men and women from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

**John's Gospel is highly theological**, and we gaze at the incomparable Christ who is the embodiment of Truth, the Light of the world, and the One in whom there is found abundant and eternal life.

The **Apostles** and other **biblical authors** present Jesus in the Scriptures as:

- ❖ Our **uniquely qualified mediator** to stand in the chasm which exists between Holy God and sinful man (1 Tim. 2:5-6).
- ❖ He is **our Great High Priest seated at the right hand** of the throne of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 8:1).
- ❖ Jesus is the **One God appointed to destroy** the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
- ❖ We are told that for our sake **He made Him to be sin who knew no sin**, so that in Christ we

might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21).

- ❖ Jesus is the **appointed heir** of all things (Heb. 1:2).
- ❖ Jesus is the **radiance of God's glory** and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by His powerful word (Heb. 1:3).
- ❖ Jesus is superior to the **angels**.
- ❖ Jesus is superior to **Moses** (Heb. 3:3).
- ❖ Jesus is our **Great High Priest** able to sympathize with our weaknesses for He has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin (Heb. 5:15).
- ❖ Jesus is able **to save completely** those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them (Heb. 7:25).
- ❖ Jesus is **holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners**, exalted above the heavens (Heb. 7:26).

❖ He is **the same yesterday and today** and forever (Heb. 13:8).

The Old Testament Prophet, **Isaiah**, describes Jesus in this manner (**Isaiah 11:1-5**, ESV):

*11 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*2 And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

*3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.*

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*

*4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

*5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

Then, a few chapters over, in **chapter 53**, Isaiah writes this powerful statement about Christ (Isa. 53:1-5, ESV):

*53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?<sup>[a]</sup>*

*And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*

*2 For he grew up before him like a young plant,*

*and like a root out of dry ground;*

*he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,*

*and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*3 He was despised and rejected<sup>[a]</sup> by men,*

*a man of sorrows<sup>[a]</sup> and acquainted with<sup>[a]</sup> grief;<sup>[a]</sup>*

*and as one from whom men hide their faces<sup>[a]</sup>*

*he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

*4 Surely he has borne our griefs*

*and carried our sorrows;*

*yet we esteemed him stricken,*

*smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;*

*he was crushed for our iniquities;*

*upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,*

*and with his wounds we are healed.*

As we get ready to bring this **message to a close**, I want you to consider how **those who encountered Jesus responded** to Him.

- The **Shepherds** glorified and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told (Lk. 2:20).



- **Simeon**, upon observing the Christ child, said, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people Israel” (Luke 2:29-32).
- **John the Baptist**, when He saw Jesus coming toward Him for the first time exclaimed, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (Jn. 1:39).
- **Nicodemus**, in the cover of the night, declared to Jesus: “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with Him” (Jn. 3:2).
- The **Samaritan woman** at the well rightly stated, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.” (Jn. 4:19).
- **Pilate** said to the Jews, “You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him” (Jn. 19:6).

- The **thief on the cross** cried out to Him, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk. 23:42-43).
- The **Centurion** at the cross who, along with others who had witnessed the events of that divinely appointed day, in fear and trembling emphatically said, “Surely He was the Son of God!” (Mt. 27:54).
- **Thomas**, who was recorded as saying that he would not believe in the resurrected Christ, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.” That same Thomas, once doubting, later said upon seeing the resurrected Savior’s pierced hands and sides then exclaimed, “MY LORD AND MY GOD!”

### Conclusion & Call for Response:

Yes, I submit to you this morning that Jesus is without parallel in human history.

John said, “Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (Jn 20:31).

All of this to say, I implore you not to miss the **Christ** in **Christmas**!

He towers over all that **Christmas** has come to mean to each one of us through the years.

Will you put your faith in Him this very morning?  
What better gift is there to give to **Christ** than your life, your love, your heart’s loyalty?

How about it? Oh, what a Savior is Jesus Christ our Lord!



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