

The Announcement of Hope

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The Hope of Christmas / Jesus' Incarnation / Matthew 1:18–25

Because Jesus has come into the world, we can have unshakeable hope.

Pre-sermon Comments

Genesis 6:5 LSB

⁵ Then Yahweh saw that the evil of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Introduction to our Text

The cross is the centre of the world's history. The incarnation of Christ and the crucifixion of our Lord are the pivot round which all the events of the ages revolve. ~ **Alexander Maclaren (Preacher and Expositor)**

The atonement is the real reason for the Incarnation. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

Proposition and Outline

Proposition: Because Jesus has come into the world, we can have unshakeable hope. We have hope in the:

- **Holy Origin of the Savior (v. 18)**
- **Hidden Hand of God (vv. 19–20)**
- **Healing Mission of Jesus (v. 21)**
- **Historic Promises of God (vv. 22–23)**

- **Harmonious Plan of God (vv. 24–25)**

Sermon Text

Matthew 1:18–25 LSB

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the One who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² Now all this took place in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, ²³ “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.” ²⁴ And Joseph got up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

We Hope in the Holy Origin of the Savior (v. 18)

Matthew 1:18 LSB

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:1 NASB95

The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Matthew 1:16 LSB

And Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Matthew 13:55 LSB

“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”

Matthew 1:19 LSB

¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Matthew 1:18 LSB

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 22:23–24 LSB

“If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and *another* man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them, and they will die; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor’s wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.

Matthew 1:18 LSB

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

The glory of the incarnation is that it presents to our adoring gaze not a humanized God or a deified man, but a true God-man—one who is all that God is and at the same time all that man is: one on whose almighty arm we can rest, and to whose human sympathy we can appeal. ~ **Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield**

Ephesians 1:7 LSB

⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our transgressions, according to the riches of His grace

We Have Hope in the Hidden Hand of God (vv. 19–20)

Matthew 1:19 LSB

¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Joseph faces a human crisis ([Matt 1:19](#))

The incarnation is not a show. No, no! ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

God provides heavenly clarity ([Matt 1:20](#))

Matthew 1:20 LSB

²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the One who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 6:3 LSB

³ “Is this man not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they were taking offense at Him.

We have hope in the Healing Mission of Jesus (v. 21)

Matthew 1:21 LSB

²¹ “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

The atonement is the real reason for the Incarnation. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

The whole point of the Incarnation is forgiveness. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Genesis 3:15 LSB

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Matthew 8:20 NASB95

Jesus said to him, “The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Isaiah 53:3 NASB95

He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

We Have Hope in the Historic Promises of God (vv. 22–23)

The achievements of the Savior through His incarnation are so astounding and so numerous that any one wishing to describe them in detail would be like one who gazes at the expanse of the sea and attempts to count its waves. ~ Source Unknown

Matthew 1:22–23 LSB

Now all this took place in order that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled, saying, “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

Harmonious Plan of God (vv. 24–25)

Matthew 1:24 LSB

And Joseph got up from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife

Psalms 15:1–4 NASB95

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent? Who may dwell on Your holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart. He does not slander with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor takes up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the LORD; He swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Matthew 1:25 LSB

but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 17:9 NASB95

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

Mark 6:3 NASB95

“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.

John 2:12 NASB95

After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and *His* brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

Matthew 1:25 LSB

but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Romans 8:28 LSB

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Conclusion:

The incarnation is the second greatest truth in the Bible. The greatest is that this God who became man could also love us enough to go to the cross and die for us personally. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

Matthew 11:28 LSB

²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Wherefore comfort yourselves with this word, Christ in you means you in glory, as sure as God lives. There is no question about that. Go your ways and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and let men see who it is that lives in you. Let Jesus speak through your mouth, and weep through your eyes, and smile through your face: let him work with your hands and walk with your feet, and be tender with your heart. Let him seek sinners through you; let him comfort saints through you; until the day break and the shadows flee away. ~ Charles Spurgeon

Additional Quotes:

He took humanity into His deity: that is the whole meaning of the incarnation. That is precisely what happened at Bethlehem. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

The atonement is the real reason for the Incarnation. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

The cross is the centre of the world's history. The incarnation of Christ and the crucifixion of our Lord are the pivot round which all the events of the ages revolve. ~ **Alexander Maclaren (Preacher and Expositor)**

The incarnation is not a show. The death on the Cross is not a tableau. No, no! ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

The Incarnation effected two things: The destruction of death; and the re-creation of mankind. ~ **Saint Athanasius of Alexandria**

The ultimate manifestation of special revelation is the incarnation of the Son. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Through union with Christ all that is his by incarnation becomes ours through faith. ~ **Sinclair Buchanan Ferguson**

The glory of the incarnation is that it presents to our adoring gaze not a humanized God or a deified man, but a true God-man—one who is all that God is and at the same time all that man is: one on whose almighty arm we can

rest, and to whose human sympathy we can appeal. ~ **Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield**

The Incarnation required no compromise of deity. When the “Word was made flesh,” His deity did not suffer. Before His Incarnation, Christ was absolute deity; after His Incarnation, He was just as much deity as before. His deity suffered nothing when He became flesh. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The fourth reason why the incarnation was important is that through it God sanctified the value of human life in a way that had not been done previously. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

There never has been a man who could understand the doctrine of the incarnation. I think of the incarnation and I take up my stand on the side of the Apostle Paul who said, ‘Great is the mystery of godliness’ ([1 Tim. 3:16](#)). My mind is too small to understand it, my intellect cannot span the infinities and the immensities and the eternities. My little pigmy reason and logic are not big enough to see or to take in such a conception as the self-emptying and the humiliation of the Son of God. I do not claim to understand it; who could understand an idea like that of the virgin birth? It is beyond understanding, it is beyond reason. Who can understand the doctrine of the two natures, unmixed, remaining separate, unmingled and yet both there, but still only one person? I cannot understand the doctrine of the Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit. I cannot and we should never try to do so. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

The result of the incarnation was that the divine Saviour could be ignorant and weak, could be tempted, and could suffer and die, not in His divine nature, but derivatively, by virtue of His possession of a human nature. ~ **Louis Berkhof (American Calvinist Theologian)**

The incarnation is the second greatest truth in the Bible. The greatest is that this God who became man could also love us enough to go to the cross and die for us personally. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

The incarnation was more an addition of human attributes than a loss of divine attributes. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

When God manifested His power in the works of His hands, the morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy; but when God manifests *Himself*, what music shall suffice for the grand psalm of adoring wonder? When wisdom and power are seen, these are but attributes; but in the incarnation it is the divine person which is revealed wrapped in a veil of our inferior clay. ~

Charles Spurgeon

So instead of God degrading Himself when He became man, He, by the act of Incarnation, elevated mankind to Himself. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

If, for the first time, you had heard of the visit of the incarnate God to this world, you would be struck with a wonder which would last throughout all eternity, that God Himself should really condescend to such a deed as this. This is the heart of the gospel, the incomparable fact of the incarnation of the Son of God, His dwelling upon the earth, and His presentation of Himself as a sacrifice unto God. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The whole point of the Incarnation was forgiveness. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

Incarnation is about God inhabiting space and time as a human being—the new heavens and New Earth are about God making space and time his *eternal* home. As Jesus is God incarnate, so the New Earth will be Heaven incarnate [in physical form]. ~ **Randy Alcorn**

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 changed 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**

In his incarnation, Christ voluntarily yielded the independent exercise of his divine attributes to the will of his heavenly Father. ~ **John F. MacArthur;**
Richard Mayhue