

INTRODUCTION

“Congratulations, it’s a boy!” said the ultrasound technician calmly. My heart sank a little. That was 2004 when my wife was pregnant with our older son. My wife and I always wanted to have a girl. I even prepared a name for her. I planned to call her Megan. (The Chinese for “Megan Choi” sounds like something else!) But the Lord had a different plan for us. Two years, four months and four days later history repeated itself. We were so confident that this time it would be a girl. Again the nurse told us: “It’s a boy.” Whether boy or girl it is a gift from God. But we still wanted a girl. Every now and then people encourage us: “Go for another one!” At our age it will not only be a blessing if God gives us another baby. It will be a miracle. “It will be a boy.” That was the message the angel gave to Mary when he told her that she would have a child. Have you ever wondered why Jesus, the Christmas baby, was a boy? What is the significance for that? Let us examine the question in this message.

EXPLANATION

1. 小孩 A Kid

First, let us first consider the fact that this Christmas baby was a kid. Let us look at [Luke 1:31](#): “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.” The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would be pregnant with a son. That can only mean one thing – that she was carrying a baby, a real person. His name would be Jesus. In case you do not know, the name “Jesus” means “God is salvation.” But this baby is not an ordinary baby. [Matthew 1:18](#) gives us some further detail: This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Mary did not conceive Jesus through a marriage. The pregnancy was the work of the Holy Spirit. No one knows how it actually occurred. It is God’s mystery. Somehow Jesus, the one true God, went inside Mary’s womb. At that time Joseph and Mary had been engaged. In those days, an engagement was viewed as a done deal. It would be considered an insult to both families to call off the wedding. It was an even greater taboo for the girl to be pregnant before the ceremony. But Joseph obeyed the order from the angel and received Mary as his wife, and waited till Jesus was born. Jesus did not come into our world as an adult. He started His earthly life as a kid just like you and me. That is why Jesus can identify with us in our struggles for being humans. [Hebrews 4:15-16](#) reads: 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Jesus willingly confined Himself as a human to go through the weaknesses we have. He understood hunger and fatigue, He laughed and shed tears, He had emotion and He felt pain and loneliness. Once I read a book written by pastor and author Max Lucado. Do you remember what profession Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph, was in? Lucado asks if we have ever imagined Jesus slamming a hammer on His fingers when He learned from Joseph to do woodwork. I have never thought of that. The point is that since Jesus came as a kid He experienced the growing process of a human just like us. I am not being disrespectful here, but

have you ever thought of the fact that Jesus once wore a diaper, learned to speak and stumbled when He first walked? Jesus encountered every human experience, except sinning. He fully understands us when we lift our burdens to Him in prayer. You may say: “Wait a minute, Jesus had never been dumped by a girl, laid off from work or even caught a cold.” But Jesus had gone through separation, betrayal, loneliness and physical pain. So, tell it to Jesus. Even when no one knows how you feel, Jesus does and He is able to give you strength in times of need.

2. 親屬 Our Kin

Jesus came as a kid. He was born into the family of Joseph. That makes Jesus our kin too. In Luke chapter 3, the genealogy of Jesus begins from Joseph and goes all the way back to Adam, the first man God created. In that regard Jesus, like us, is a descendent of Adam. Why did Jesus choose to become our kin? First of all, Jesus had to come as a man to save us from sins. **Hebrews 2:14** says: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil. A major theme in the book of Hebrews is to point out that the animal sacrificial system of the Old Testament is unable to remove one's sins permanently. But when Jesus came He served as both the perfect High Priest and the perfect sacrifice. He offered Himself on the cross as the atoning sacrifice once and for all. When Adam sinned, the whole mankind fell as a consequence. Jesus came as a descendant of Adam to redeem us back into God's family. Paul told us in **Galatians 4:4-5** that: 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Those who receive Jesus Christ into their hearts are not only saved from sins. Their privilege as God's children is also restored. When Paul used “sons” that of course also includes all the sisters. Paul was not writing to Jews, but Gentile believers. Even though they were not Jews by birth they were adopted as the children of God into His family. Jesus did not just save us as individual believers. Whether we are Americans, Chinese or whatever nationality, in Christ we belong to the same family. All the promises and blessings in the Bible apply to us. Once a Chinese pastor was traveling on a plane. Soon after take-off he chatted with a man sitting next to him. The person told the pastor that he was a Jew. To that the pastor replied: “What a coincidence! I am also a Jew.” The gentleman was surprised because from every angle this traveler sitting beside him looked very much like a Chinese. The pastor took that opportunity to share the gospel with this Jewish friend. I am not saying that a person has to convert to a Jew before he/she can become a Christian. But have you thought about that as Christians we are the spiritual descendants of Abraham? I hope that can bring us fresh meaning every time we read the Bible. There are still names, places and customs that we are not familiar with. But they are not only about the history of a foreign country named Israel. It is God's work in the human history. The same God also invites us to become part of His salvation story. Our mission as God's children is to go out and invite people to receive Christ, so that they can join us in God's family.

3. 君王 The King

Jesus came as a kid and He was our kin. Thirdly, Jesus arrived as the King. The angel Gabriel told Mary in **Luke 1:32-33** what kind of son she would give birth to: 32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. The

reason why Joseph was chosen as the earthly father of Jesus was because Joseph was a descendant of King David. The dynasty of David came to an end some 500 years before Jesus was born when the whole nation of Israel was defeated by Babylon. The country thus ceased to exist. Subsequently, one after another great kingdoms arose – Persia, Greece then Rome. Even when the political atmosphere changed nothing could frustrate God’s plan. Back then when David was anointed as a king God spoke through Nathan the prophet in **2 Samuel 7:16**: “Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” No earthly kingdom will last forever. God was not talking about any domain in the world. He was referring to the spiritual Kingdom. Jesus came to succeed the throne of David to become a spiritual King. Thus the prophecy of Nathan came true. Whatever God had prophesied in the Bible it will surely be fulfilled. Jesus was born at a time when the world did not expect Him or prepare for His coming. When you look at the human history or what is happening today we feel disappointed and helpless. There are economic instability, gun shooting, natural disasters, scandals, internet security hack and threats of war. Is tomorrow really getting better, or worse? But just when we think that the world is going out of hand God is still in control. God is not only interested in the macro-environment, He also accomplishes His will through us. Jesus was born into the family of ordinary people like Mary and Joseph. David was a shepherd boy before he became a king. Peter was a fisherman but Jesus called him to be a disciple and a future church leader. All these people just followed what God told them to do. They had no idea the far-reaching consequence of what they did. Joseph and Mary had no idea what kind of King Jesus would become. Even today God still uses you and me to accomplish His plans. The question is: are we willing to submit to Him? Jesus came as a King. Is He the King of your life or are you still a king or queen of your own life? Do you obey your King, or do you make Jesus your servant?

CONCLUSION

Jesus came as a kid. He is our kin. He is also the King. That is the Christmas story in the Bible. There is no Santa Clause but there is the Christmas baby. This child was born for a purpose. The biggest problem of this world is not about food shortage, energy crisis or the economy recession, though those problems are very real. The biggest problem of this world is the sin problem that people fail to acknowledge God as God. This baby came to save us. Jesus is our savior sibling. That is a term I came across from a true story. Five year old Charlie Whitaker had a rare but life-threatening form of anemia. Every three weeks Charlie had to go to the hospital for a blood transfusion and every night he had to put on a drip for 12 hours to flush out the iron in his system. The only hope for Charlie’s cure was a stem cell transplant. But no one in his family was a good match for him. Finally, Charlie’s parents thought of a possible solution. They decided to have another baby, hoping that this future baby could save his older brother. In June of 2003 Jamie was born. Stem cells were harvested from the blood of his umbilical cord. They were then injected into Charlie. A year later all the previous symptoms were gone. Charlie was saved because of Jamie, his savior sibling. Jesus also came into the world as our savior sibling. He shed His blood to save us. He is the greatest blessing God has prepared for you. In this Christmas season are you willing to receive Jesus into your heart? First, you have to admit that you are a sinner and there is no way you can save yourself from sin. Next you have to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the only true God and that He died on the cross for your sin. Finally, you have to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Are you willing to receive this biggest gift of your life?