

Born King of the Jews!

Pastor James

www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, this morning I come to You. We thank You for Christmas. We thank You that You sent Your Son. We thank You Jesus that You came and we thank You Spirit of God that You lift Jesus, even now, in our midst. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, it is all about You, Jesus. Even now, even today, even the rest of the year and all the days and all the years You may add to our life let it be all about You Jesus. Jesus, we lift you up. We put down and aside everything else. And Jesus, we lift you up. Be magnified, be glorified. May you have preeminence O Lord, today in everything. For in Heaven only one was found worthy to take the scrolls and open the seals. Only One and it was You. May you receive that same honor in our midst this morning. Thank You Lord, thank You. We celebrate You, we worship You, we praise You. Speak to us O Lord. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Like I said, the birth of this incredible Person changes everything. But His birth, the actual birth in the entire Scripture is just one line.

Luke 2:7

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

A young girl, probably in her late teens. You can use the term 'peasant'. A Jewish young girl brought forth her first born, wrapped him in some clothes and there was no room for Him to be born; He was probably born in a stable, probably in a cave, and she laid Him in the watering trough that was there. A make-shift cradle. Then when we realize who He is then we realize that He is the Creator and this is how He make His entry into our midst. We need to ask questions because Christmas has become a tradition. With that tradition there are so many things that are associated and attached to it. In *Matthew 15:3* Jesus would ask this question,

Matthew 15:3

³ He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

See, Jesus would always answer with a question. We have to be very careful. Traditions are important as long as it does not transgress the commandment. Behind every tradition should be a commandment of God and there should be truth. So behind tradition we look for truth. So there are lots of traditions connected with Christmas and we take all those things out in which the commandment of God isn't there. This is the commandment of God in one word; from *Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21* is the Commandment of God. So the question is this, like I said Christmas is the most celebrated festival unlike ever. But sometimes all we have is rivalry instead of reality. Santa instead of Christ. Elves instead of angels. And a lot of gifts like any other season. But I have not seen anybody give gold, frankincense and myrrh. I mean unless you fought with your husband that he didn't buy you gold. But I have never heard anybody say that they have received frankincense and myrrh for their birthday. But we are busy giving gifts on somebody else's birthday. It is good, nothing wrong with that as long as you are not broke at the end of it. It is good to give gifts. So we should always ask this question. Now I am talking to parents because we have so many kids in our church, never discourage your children from asking questions unless it is because of rebellion. But children are naturally curious and so they ask this question 'Why?' why? How? When? What? Who? All these questions they ask. And parents will usually tell them, 'Shut up and listen,' because they don't know the answers. They pretend that they know but they do not know. They will say, 'Shut up and listen to me.' So, we should ask this question – why? Why Christmas? Because if you do not ask why, then you don't have the other answers – how? And when? And where? And what? And ultimately you will end up with -why? You should never stop until you find the answer, because some questions are so important in life. You should not live without finding the answer. The answer is very, very, important. Many questions are not important, but some are.

The first question you should usually ask is, there is one thing common about all of us, if you actually study there is only one thing that is common about all of us, everything else is dissimilar. One thing common is that we will all die. One way or the other we will all die. There is nothing else common among us, not even the air that we breath is the same. Though it may look the same it is not the same. If it would be tested in the laboratory you will see that the sir is slightly different

with different dirt and particles in it. Nothing. There is only one thing that is common about all of us. You know what? We will all die. So the question is – is death the end? Or is it the beginning of something else.

Now all religions try to address the question of death. And there is religion and religions thrive only because of death. If there is no death there is no religion. What will they do? Tell me, what will they do? There can be no religion unless there is something called death. Death came in and religion came in. so you have here, in *Luke 2:7* one line about whom we sang. This Baby that we sang about is not a baby anymore. At a point in time He came in as a baby and He reverted back to as He always was. Just one line, to denote the birth of the greatest event in Human history. The question to be asked is – how can this Baby, born in a stable, kept in a wooden manger, grew up in a despised town called Nazareth, who never travelled more than any of us sitting here. Most people sitting here has travelled more than Him; He didn't travel more than 50 or 40 square kilometers. That is all He travelled in His entire life. He chose some semi-illiterate, according to the Word of God, people as His disciples, and then He taught them for three and a half years, a very itinerant ministry, wondering around teaching and taught this core group alone. He died a violent death at the hands of the most powerful empire the world has ever known called the Roman Empire. On a Cross; the most despised instrument of death of that time. And then how can this Person divide history into two? How come He had more followers than anybody ever in Human history? How come, till today, history is defined by this Man? There is a war going on right now, do you know that it is about Him? Do you know that every war that has been fought ever, from the beginning when Cain killed Abel, till the last war is about Him? You go and search you will realize that it is actually about Him. So the question is – who is this Baby? Jesus Christ, who is He?

We cannot go or look outside; we have to go to the only Text which talks about Him, which is the Bible. So we need to go to the Book. This book is called the Bible. And the Bible means the Book. There are many books in the world but the Bible means the Book. What is the Bible? It is the revelation of Jesus Christ. There are books and there is a Book. And this Book is unique. Unlike any other book. And those of us who know the Book we know that this Book is divided into two sections; one is called the Old Testament and the other is called the New Testament. And the Book is divided by His birth. The Old Testament is the same. For both Christians and the Jews. If you know the religious texts the Bible is very unique. The Bible says about itself in this way,

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

All Scripture, it is talking about the Scripture which is the Word of God. All Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. It is God-inspired, literally breathed by God. Do you know what it means? It means that if I don't breathe you will not hear. If you need sound you need to breathe. Where there is no air there is no sound. That is why if you speak on the moon nobody will hear because there is no air there. So, it is breathed by God. This entire Book is written by 40 men over 1400 years, breathed by God through these men. And it didn't matter who that man was. What mattered was the God who spoke. So if you know your Bible, whenever you open your Bible, a lot of people who actually seek and search when they open the Bible they are stunned by how the Bible begins. This is how it begins,

Genesis 1:1-2

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And then God speaks; the first thing God says is,

Genesis 1:3

³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

I am praying, 'Let there be light.' This is the most emphatic opening of any book ever. Unlike any other religious text, no explanation, nothing. *In the beginning, God created the Heave and the earth.* And the state was like so and *God said, 'Let there be light'* and after that, *God said... God said... God said...* if you look at the other large religion which is Islam, when they open their holy text which is Quran, it begins with – 'In the name of God, the most compassionate, most merciful...', so immediately you know that it is not God who is speaking; it is man who is speaking in the name of God. Like if

somebody comes and says, 'Pastor said,' you know that he is not speaking on his own but he is speaking on behalf of the pastor. Hinduism is much more complicated because you do not know what text to go to, because it's got various books. But if you actually ask a religious, devout Hindu he will say that his core text is the Bhagavad Gita.

But if you look at how Bhagavad Gita begins it is by a question of a blind king who is asking - *Dhritarashtra said: O Sanjay, after gathering on the holy field of Kurukshetra, and desiring to fight, what did my sons and the sons of Pandu do?* That is how it begins, and then you have the whole narrative. So if you look at any religious text of any religion the way the Bible begins is completely different – *IN the beginning God create the heavens and the earth.* No explanation required because He is the Creator. Nobody is appealing for anything, nobody is asking questions.

So people who actually searching, you know my testimony; I was not a Christian. I was born in a Christian family but I was not a Christian. I searched other texts, I read all the other texts and finally came to the Bible. So if you are truly seeking, why do you have Buddhism? How did Buddhism originate? Because a young prince called Siddhartha saw this dead body go by and he was troubled by this question of death. That is why he left his throne in search of an answer to death. And so we have Buddhism. Because people from Centuries and 1000s of years have been asking this question – what is the end? What is the meaning of this? We need an answer. When nobody has come back and told you that this is what it is, there is only one Man who has risen from the dead and has come back and given an answer. You cannot sit there knowing that there is only one certainty in life, which is death and nobody knows when. The young die, babies die, children die, middle age die, old people die, many who went to sleep last night expecting to celebrate Christmas did not wake up. They died. So there are people who searched.

And when you read the Bible, if you actually read from the beginning it tells you everything; it tells you creation. The beginning of man. The problem of man called sin and how death came and the solution to sin and death. And tells you the future that is coming. like I said, one-third of the Bible is prophecy; it talks about the future. So if you read chapter 1 and 2 of the Bible you will see the beginning. In chapter 3 you will see the problem. Then when you go all the way you will see problem, problem, problem, problem and then you see a solution. Then when you come to *Revelation 20* you will see the end. And in chapters 21 and 22 you will see the eternity. In no other book, only this book. Only in this Book you've got it all. If you search you will find it. It is there. And since all of you sitting here know how it all began, everything has to have a beginning; there was a man and a woman and there was one commandment given – they were told not to do something. There was a fellow who came and deceived them and mankind fell and death came.

Now if you go to *Genesis 3 and verse 14-15*, this is post fall, this is the first promise of Christmas.

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

It is a vow to the devil. Shaitan as they say. Every religion talks about shaitan. Where did they get it from? Every religion talks about shaitan; Islam talks about Shaithan, Hinduism talks about shaithan, Buddhism talks about it. Everybody talks about it. So this is a promise to that fellow. 'Her Seed' and then it is referred to as 'He'. It is a vow and it is a Promise – the Seed of the woman. It is singular. And then from there you read all the subsequent pages of the Bible it is the shadow of Christ. Yesterday Pastor Vijay said, 'We understand history only in hindsight in our own lives.' Ah! This is why that happened. Ah! This is why that happened.

In the same way, now you read the pages of the Bible, in history you will see the shadow of Jesus Christ. so if you go back and reverse it from where we are standing, 2600 years, or before Jesus was born it was 600 years where in *Isaiah 7:14*. 600 years before the actual birth of Jesus, this is what it says,

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Wait a minute! A virgin shall conceive? Life doesn't begin at birth, it begins at conception. It doesn't begin at birth, it begins at conception. We heard it, but we know that it is not possible. It is not possible, a virgin cannot conceive, it is impossible. We heard yesterday about wonder. If a virgin has to conceive it has to be a wonder. It is not possible. It is impossible for a virgin to give birth. 600 years later, there is this young girl called Mary, and an angel appears to her. Listen to the address what he tells her,

Luke 1:26-27

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

to a virgin, it is clearly mentioned, who is engaged to be married. ***The virgin's name was Mary.*** It is repeated twice – a virgin, a virgin. The wonder of God. Now let me ask you this question – for 6000 years of human history it didn't matter which way culture is dispersed the chastity of a virgin for a woman is important in every culture and not for man. Why? because the Savior would be born of a virgin and every woman had to stay under that Law. It was connected with one boy alone and no other boy. Ask these questions, you should ask – how is that in any culture you go and search in human history the chastity of a woman, the virginity of a woman is a big issue. And nobody talks about the man. Why? The reason is there was a prophecy, untold prophesy, every generation, every culture carried it. A virgin shall give birth.

Luke 1:30-32

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Of course Mary will ask this question, she will ask,

Luke 1:34-35

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" Absolutely, scientifically, biologically, creation wise, right! Mary knows her science. Then comes the answer. ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. That sets Him apart in history. It sets one person alone; from the first man to the last man, He is the only one who is set apart; simply by His birth.

Remember, Mary is engaged to be married, so there is a man involved. How do you deal with this man? so in *Matthew 1* God deals with that man.

Matthew 1:18-20

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. (He is a just man, so he plans to put her away quietly without making a big scene.) ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

So man is taken care of; He spoke to only that person. God did not speak to anybody else, only one. Like I told you, favour with God, favour with man and sometimes you need favour with only one man. If you are engaged with somebody and you conceive you need favour with that man. And God spoke to that man and he obeyed God. So Jesus was conceived; birthed by the Spirit of God. This is called the virgin birth. And it is important what you believe. So we have three monotheistic religions. The rest are all polytheistic. Monotheistic meaning a religion which believe in only one God – Judaism, Islam and Christianity. And the rest of the religions have many gods.

If you go to Isaiah 7:14,

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

To Judaism it is a virgin birth. If you go through what we read, in the New Testament to the Christians it is a virgin birth. If you read the Quran Jesus is called Isa ibn Maryam, the virgin. So in these three monotheistic religions Christ is there right at the centre and all three of them actually talk about the virgin birth; because He is different, His birth is different. What about other religions? Like I said Hinduism is an issue because you have multiplicity of gods. But among the gods the most popular ones (next month you have a big ceremony where a temple is going to be dedicated over which 20-30 years battles have been going on. It is going to be dedicated to the god Ram). If you search Hindu scriptures Ram has a father, he has a mother, he has a wife, and he has two sons. What about Krishna? He has a father, he has a mother, he has eight prominent queens, and 1608 other wives, that has got to do with another story, and eighty sons. What about Buddhism? Prince Siddhartha, prince of his country which is now modern Nepal, he had a father, mother, a wife and one son, if I am right his son's name is Rahula.

What about Islam? Muhammad had a father, a mother, 12 wives, 3 sons and 1 daughter. If my memory is right all his 3 sons died before they reached maturity, so they adopted a son. So you pick any founder of any religion, any god in any religion, from pagan, Greek to Roman, they all had fathers and mothers and wives and children. But Christ has God as His Father, His birth was of a virgin and never married, had no children. Born of a virgin, born of God. God became Man.

Matthew 1:21

²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

Name is important. I mean we just randomly given names according our desires, dreams, and aspirations. But Jesus' name is very important because God has a Son and He gives Him a name. Then you need to understand that the Name is connected with His purpose. What is His purpose? **He will save His people from their sins.** Did you see that? He will save His people from His sins. That is His Name. Did you get it? And then one more name is given, that is in *Matthew 1:23*,

Matthew 1:23

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

Like I said, name signifies purpose. Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, all connected to purpose.

So the second question is – why was He born? We know how He was born. We know where He was born and we have a rough idea of when He was born. So the question is – why was He born? The purpose? The simple law in nature. Take a look around, look up. What do you see? Some saw the roof, others saw the fan, and there are lights. There is a law. You cannot have a product before you have a purpose. Purpose proceeds production. Do you know why you have a fan? Because somebody realized that it is getting hot and decided, 'I need to find a way to elevate the heat.' You don't randomly make things. You make a product and before the product there is a purpose. When the product is made it is tested and in our human products over time the products become better and better and better because as it is tested you understand its faults and everything and it gets better and better. The only things that are getting better and better are products, expect humanity. Humans are becoming worse and worse and worse. Do you know why? It is because man hasn't found his purpose. The only man who gets better and better is the man who has found his God-given purpose. Every other man, woman and child, if you do not find your purpose you will not become better. You will not even try to become better.

Understand, there is a law. For with purpose life gets its meaning. And most people live meaningless lives. Even very successful people are empty inside. And you see them everyday committing suicide. Like I said, I have these groups from my college days, in both the groups I am the only believer. So depending upon which state government you are employed in at 55 people retire, at 58 people retire, 60 others tire and if you are in the university at 62 you retire. That is maximum. So as people retire you see meaningless coming up on the whatsapp group – 'Life sucks' 'I don't know what I am living for' 'Children don't care' 'Grandchildren don't come' everybody is empty, because you found purpose in

something that is temporary. In *Hebrews 10:5-7* this is Jesus when He came as Man into our realm, this what He said about Himself,

Hebrews 10:5-7

⁵Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

So He says, 'I came to do one thing, to fulfill My Father's will.' So what did He come for? Paul, in the letter to Timothy, puts it very simplistically,

1 Timothy 1:15

¹⁵This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Now let me ask you, go into any religion, any religion including Judaism, met Moses and ask Moses, 'Can you save me?' he will say, 'No I can't.' He will say, 'Do this, do this, do this. Maybe!' ask Muhammad, 'Can you save me?' he will save, 'No! Do this, do this, do this, maybe. Inshallah!' That is the truth. Ask Krishna. He will say, 'From yuga to yuga I was born, to destroy the sinners and save only the righteous.' Nobody. Nobody, no one, except Jesus. You go to Jesus and ask, 'Can You save me?' He will say, 'That is the purpose I came, to save you. Who are you?' I am the worst of sinners. 'Good! I have come for you.' Nobody, except Him, has said that.

We have doctors in our midst, we know how it works. You have a sickness. The doctor knows that your sickness is only the effect, he wants to know the cause. We have a radiologist sitting right in here. And he will test everything. And he will write the report and the other physician takes the report and says, 'This is the cause, this is the remedy, otherwise this is the result.' You have a cause and the end of every sickness is death and there has to be a remedy. So you have an end which is called death, cause is sin. and therefore God sent His Son. the most favorite, well-known verse in the Bible,

John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Whoever, meaning anybody in the globe; any religion, any faith, cast no-bar, language no-bar, tribe no-bar. No bar at all. Anyone, whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

So there He is; born of a virgin, therefore born without sin. It is important. We know it all. We have heard and learnt so much. We know it, because if we have to be a Savior. Let's say, if the doctor is sick will he go to his clinic to see the patients? No, because he knows that there will be more patients because of him. So if I have to save somebody from sin I have to be without sin. If I am with sin then I need a Savior. Right? That is why He had to be born of a virgin, born of God. How is sin transferred? From father to children; not mother to children. All the mothers check it out, it is there; your baby's blood does not mix with the mother, though the mother carries for nine months the blood never mixes. It is the father who determines the sex, whether it is a male or a female. It is the father. And God said, 'That is how it will be transmitted.' When Adam sinned, all sinned. If Eve has sinned, and Adam had not sinned, then probably God would have created another woman. But Adam sinned. So the only possibility is knocked them both out and create two other, but the cycle will keep repeating. So the problem was not that Eve sinned; the problem was that Adam sinned. The Bible never says that Eve sinned and man fell; it says – Adam sinned. And all of us fell.

I told you right? There are people sitting here, you are 13 years old but the blood in you is 6000 years old, not 13. The blood that is flowing in you is 6000 years old straight from Adam, it has been flowing so sin has been passed down. So if God needs to save man He needs a Man in whom there is no blood of man. So God became Man, He needed a woman

to give Him the body but He was born, not of man, but of God. Understand why the virgin birth is so important, because of the reason He gave. He came to save us. So His conception is without sin, and about His birth this is how it is written in Galatians 4:4,

Galatians 4:4

⁴ But when the fullness of the time has come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

That is how He came. So there is His birth without sin. So what about His life? Because if He sins then all hope is lost, He also needs a Savior. So about His entire life this is how it is written.

Hebrews 4:15

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Meaning we have Christ as our High Priest who sympathizes, when we fall we sin and He sympathizes with us, He says, 'I know how hard it is,' because He was tempted in all points but without sin; He never sinned, but He knows the power of temptation. So He sympathizes with us, 'Yes children come to Me. come to Me all sinners, come to Me.' not like other gods who say, 'All sinners go far away.' Jesus is the opposite, 'All sinners come to Me. Every sinner come toward Me.' while all the other gods say, 'All sinners go far away and all righteous come close.'

So Jesus is birthed without sin, His life is without sin and His death,

Romans 6:10

¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

He died to sin, not because of sin, to sin. He died a death for my sin. It is called substitution. All the students understand substitution, if they go to class and their English teacher's name is James, but one day the English teacher James is absent and another teacher called Joseph comes and 'Sir Joseph, are you teaching me today?' he will say, 'Yes, only for today. I am your substitution teacher.' I am not your real teacher, but a substitution. Everybody knows substitution. So He died my death. I should have died, He died my death. It is a principal accepted in law. He died my death.

¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin, whose sin? Everybody's sin, all mankind. He died that death to sin, everybody's sin. But for me, after living in a Christian family for 19 years, it became real only when I believed. So until you believe it does not become real. The substitution death of Jesus Christ. but it doesn't stop there,

Romans 6:9

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

If He doesn't rise then death is stronger than anything else, and we are gone. But He rose. That is my hope – there is somebody who died and He rose again. If I believe in Him I will rise again too. That is the hope of resurrection. That is what gives you hope when death happens you can die without fearing because of resurrection.

So why did Jesus come?

Galatians 4:5

⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

What is Christmas all about? Do you know that 90% of those who celebrate Christmas do not know what Christmas is about? They do not know what it is about. So they have fun and by tomorrow they have a hang-over and they forget, they wait for next year. But those who know they celebrate through the year, Christmas is not a one-day thing; the birth, the death and the resurrection of Jesus is our life. Everything is connected with that.

Matthew 26:28

²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Then the question comes – why the Blood? Again simple knowledge which we know but we do not understand. When we ask why then only will we realize. You cannot die until your heart stops. You can be brain-dead, live with part of your liver, one lung, all that, no hands, no legs, no eyes, no ears, no nose, all possible. If you cannot eat you can still be fed through feeding tubes, everything can be possible. But when your heart stops you die. Then the doctor declares – ‘dead!’ why? It is because life is in the blood. When man sinned, He lost life. The only thing that had life was blood, so temporarily God gave blood as a shadow and the substance would be the Blood of His own Son. that is why He came. And that should excite us.

We saw many, many reasons last two Sundays as to why He came. We looked at many reason.

See, people don’t ask questions. The Jew doesn’t ask questions. The Day of Atonement was the most important day in their Calendar. But that day is no longer there, that day is there but nobody is being killed. For thousands of years the lamb is there, but there is no high priest, there is no temple. It is just a day without a ceremony. So he should ask – where does my atonement come from? The Muslim should ask the question , if you ask him he will say, ‘Prophet Ibrahim took his son Ishmael onto the mountain and Allah asked him to kill him, but Allah stopped him and he saw a ram and so he killed the ram and therefore you have ‘Bakrid’ where millions and millions of goats get killed. The Muslim doesn’t ask this question. But on a Hill far away stood an old rugged Cross on which the Son of God died. That goes against their narrative.

They believe in the virgin birth, they believe that Jesus is Ru-Allah, the Spirit of God, they believe that Jesus is the Word of God, they believe all these things, but they will not accept that He died on t he Cross. Because if He died on the Cross Islam falls. So they say that He didn’t die on the Cross, Allah replaced Him with somebody else. You need to understand the mystery of the Blood, why He came. Look through the entire history of Hindu gods, all of them, search all of them; from Brahma to Vishnu to Shiva to all the others, and the avatars, do you see any god shedding blood? No. yet the Rig-Veda says – only in the blood of the creature that is tied to the tree there is moksha. There is no other way. In the Vedas, the oldest Veda it says that there will be an animal which will be tied to the tree and when you believe in the shed blood of that animal, or that creature, that Person who is called Prajapathi in Rig-Veda (praja means human and Pathi means savior), when you believe in the blood of that Person you have Moksha, you have salvation. There is no other way, there is only one way – the Blood.

So Mary’s little Baby was born to die. We were all born to live. Jesus didn’t come to live; He came to die. He is the only Kid who came with a specific purpose – to die. Because if He didn’t die we will all die eternally. So we ask questions. Our issue is that we take life casually. We ask all the wrong questions, except the most important question. The most important question is that it is appointed unto every man to die once and after that, after death? You need to stop and ask this question – what is after death? So religion has to invent different methods to deal with the question of death, because religion thrives on death.

So purpose is important, you need to ask – why did He come? So there are many statements in the Bible – for this reason the Son of Man came, for this reason the Son of Man came. All this is true, absolutely true. But if we miss out asking these questions and discovering the purposes of God we will also be Christians who will have a tree, decorate it and have the star and then have the cake and eat the cake and nobody asks these questions – where did the tree come from? And why do I have to put cotton as snow when there is not snow in Hyderabad? And where did this Santa come from? You see from the airport onwards everywhere there is Christmas tree and Santa clause and there is no Christ. yet it is His birthday. Where did all these things come from? Behind every tradition you need to ask this question – is there a commandment of God? The only thing is the star. Other than the star there is nothing. All that we celebrate there is nothing Biblical. There is no ox, there is no donkey, there is no sheep, and there is no shepherd, there is nothing. There are not even three wise-men, because the three is not mentioned. We invented three wise men from three gifts.

And God says, ‘Be careful about your traditions. That by your traditions you do not transgress the commandment of God.’ That is why for 100s and 100s of years the Church never celebrated Christ’s birth. They celebrated His death and His resurrection. It is good that we have a holiday, we use it for evangelism, the whole week evangelism was taking place inviting neighbors and others talking about Christ and giving messages. Then something happened in His last hours on earth. His disciples did not understand His death, they did not want Him to die. They tried to stop Him from dying. Jesus

got upset with them because He came to die. If He doesn't die then they have no hope, they do not understand. It is a mystery until His death took place. So in the last hours of His life, Jesus was arrested, beaten up, face all swollen, beard all plucked, He has not been whipped yet but He took all those beatings at the high priest's place. He is standing before the governor, the emblem of the greatest empire on earth, his name is Pontius Pilot.

A Sunday school teacher asked them to draw a picture which was about Joseph and Mary escaping with baby Jesus to Egypt. And it was called 'The flight to Egypt' so everybody made different pictures and one boy drew an airplane with Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the third person. The teacher looked at it and asked, 'What is this? Who is this?' the boy said, 'This is Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus and that is the pilot, Pontius Pilot.' Hahahaha! Yu think children do not have imagination. They have imagination.

So, all those who have already believed but are still struggling or wandering without purpose, you get this then everything will start falling into place from now for the rest of your life. It is an encounter that is taking place between Rome and Christ. We see that in, *John 18*,

John 18:33

³³ Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" listen to Jesus' answer, because if you understand Jesus' answer it will change your life. **³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servant would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, Do you know what Christmas day is all about? Do you know why He was born? He was born to be King. If you don't understand it Christmas has no meaning for you. **and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."****

Listen carefully to what Jesus is speaking, these are basically His last words to us, when He was in the flesh. That is why it is all recorded.

Point no. 1 – Jesus is King!

Point 2 – His Kingdom is not of this world

Point 3 – verse 33 **"Are You the King of the Jews?"** listen carefully, in this world, even now, even today, He is only the King of the Jews.

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Are you a Jew? If your heart has been circumcised from the principles of this world, by the Spirit of God, and your praise is from God and you are not looking for praise from man, then you are a Jew and Christ is your King. One day He will come back and He will be King over everybody, but right now He is only the King of the Jews, not one who is outward but the of the one who is inward.

Point 5:

John 18:37

³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Read carefully, look at the construction – **everyone who is of the truth hears My voice**. Not those who 'hears' the truth; you can hear it and reject it. Everyone who is **of** the truth hears My voice. You cannot hear the voice of your King unless you are of the truth. So *James 1:18* talks about salvation.

James 1:18

¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

John 18:38

³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

That is the question – what is truth? What is/ the truth about all of us? Do you know what the truth is about all of us? The truth is in *psalm 51:5*,

Psalm 51:5

⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.

It has got nothing to do with the mother, people misunderstand it and say, 'They are blaming my mother,' no, it has got nothing to do with your mother. It has got to do with the father, Adam. How were we born? In sin, we did not become sinners by sinning, we were born in sin and so we sin. When the first man fell in sin, every man, from then till now, fell into sin; that same blood is flowing. So why do we sin? It is because we are sinners. We did not become sinners by sinning; we are sinners and therefore we sin. What does religion do? Religion is only trying to control sin. It cannot take sin away.

See, the word 'law' is used both in the government and in religion. These are the only two places the word 'law' is used. The law of the government is to stop us from sinning – 'Don't break and law!' and the law of religion is to stop us from sinning. But can it stop us? It cannot. It can control but it cannot stop. Like I said, all our little children over there, you don't have to do anything, leave them alone and they will sin because that is their nature. We say, 'Cherub, angel,' and all that, true yet not true. Remember there is a 'viper in the diaper'.

So our problem is sin. We are helpless. That is my nature, what is it? My nature is a nature of a sinner. I can't help it. That is my nature. But the problem is that you cannot excuse it because the wages of sin is death. Why do we die? Because of sin. All these other reasons are the effects of sin; sickness is an effect of sin; accidents are effects of sin; everything is an effect of sin. No sin, no death. Sin came in, death came in. We die through different ways, but the reason is sin. *the wages of sin is death.*

Now there is one death which is common to all of us, we will all die one day. But there is something called the 'second death' that is the dangerous one. Jesus came to save us from the second one. He didn't save us from the first one, understand that. Because we are still dying, if you look in the mirror, if you are wise you will realize that you are dying. Your body is a graveyard; it reflects death, doesn't matter what all you cover it with, it is a reflection of death. We are all dead men walking. Hair is all growing whiter, limbs are growing weaker, joints ache, you don't know how to oil it, because the oil is outside it doesn't go inside. All kinds of things. We are a body of death.

Jesus didn't come to save us from the first death, but He came to save us from the first death, eternity away from God. It is a dangerous place. The Bible describes that in *revelation 20:14-15*, the end of all mankind.

Revelation 20:14-15

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Death is a spirit. What is death? Death is a reality for us but it is also a spirit. Our Hindu brothers know it very well, that fellow who comes on that buffalo; he comes on a buffalo to take you away. It is death. Sometimes they have more imagination than us. Hades is a place, but is it also a spirit. What does God do? He takes death and Hades ***¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*** What is the second death? The lake of fire forever and ever. ***¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

There is a book in Heaven. There are so many books in the world everybody is trying to get into them. Birth and death register is there in GHMC, then everybody if possible wants to enter the Guinness Book of Records, Fortune 500 Book, every book. But none of these books matter. There is a Book in Heaven, the day you repent of your sin and you believe Jesus as your Savior, your name is written. That is the only book that matters. There it will be searched, Abigail Esther Eathakota, pastor's daughter, it is irrelevant. The eldest daughter, irrelevant. Is your name there in the Book? Yes, then good. Who you are is irrelevant, but is your name there in the Book or not. Only one thing matters. If your name is not there that means that you have rejected God your only Savior. If you have rejected the Savior then God would have to deal with your sin. the wages of sin is death, the second death; eternal separation from God.

So Christ came to deliver us from the power of death. Are you getting it? Along with that something happens to those whose names are in that book. So let's go back again, 2600 years backwards, go to Isaiah 9, this is 600 years before Jesus was born.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given (it is talking about Jesus. Those who receive the Son realize something); **and the government will be upon His shoulder.** (The government will be on his shoulder. Pastor Vijay just touched it yesterday. Look at verse 7) **And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** **⁷Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**

⁷Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, then one day, very soon, I don't know how long we have time left, Christ will step down again and He will sit upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. That is why the battle is over Jerusalem, because they know that He is coming back there. **And over His kingdom,** did you see something over there? So there are two terms used over there. The government and Kingdom. It is very clear. We have a government but it is not a kingdom. Just above India we have a small country called Bhutan, it is a kingdom, they have a government but it is a kingdom. We have IGS on our covers – Indian Government Service. They have HMS on their covers – His Majesty's Service. So we have our ships named as INS – Indian Naval Ship. For Britain it is HMS – His Majesty's Ship/ Her Majesty's Ship. It changes because the government is not the same. That is why in two verses two things are used, one is the government, next is the Kingdom. And **for this purpose I was born.**

Do you know when Jesus was born? Sometime later, around 2 years later the wise men came from the East. I don't know where they came from, Babylon, or India, we don't know. They searched their scriptures on stars and they saw the star, they followed the star, then suddenly the star disappeared so they went to Jerusalem, they went to the King and they asked this question,

Matthew 2:1

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? Born King. Even king's children are not born kings; they are born as princes. Christ was not born as a prince. He was born King. Because there is only one King, that is Christ. **? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."** Verse 3 says,

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

It is a very troubling news. A very, very troubling news. Get this clear, if you don't understand fully why He was born, those who are Christians, those who are believers here, young and old, your main struggle is not that you do not know Him as Savior, your major struggle is that you have not understood that He is born to be King and the government is upon His shoulders and not yours. It is about a government and about a King. So again if you want to understand you have to go to the beginning. What is the first book in the Bible? Genesis. What does Genesis mean? Beginning, or origin, or uthpathi. So you have to go to the beginning. The first two chapters tell our beginning. Where did we begin? Chapter 1 we have all of creation, chapter 2 is specific to man. In chapter 2 there is something that is taught, in verses 4-6,

Genesis 2:4-6

⁴ ***This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; ⁶ but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.***

⁴ ***This is the history***, Bible is a very apt, truthful, historical book. It gives you history which you cannot doubt about it because God is speaking. He won't lie to you. God is not a man that He should lie or a Son of man that He should repent. ***when they were created***, so God was there before that; He created. ***God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground.*** There was no man. So you need to realize that in the center of God's creation on earth, in His purpose was man. And in *Genesis 1:26* man is different. This is where religions differ; Hinduism is so radically different from Christianity because of who man is.

Genesis 1:26

²⁶ ***Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."***

Man was made in God's spiritual image and in His likeness. And He was created to have dominion; authority and power over everything else. That was what man was created for. That is why it is contrary to other religions. You need to understand where people's beliefs come from. We are not mocking them or scolding them. We are just lifting Christ up. Because in Hinduism animals are equal or superior of them. So they will say, 'I am vegetarian,' don't laugh at them, but understand where they are coming from. Why are so many Hindus vegetarians? It is because of the concept about the animals and their gods also come in various forms as animals. But that is not what the Bible says. The Bible says something different. Man was separate from the rest of the creation. Only man was made in the image and the likeness of God.

And if you were to use some logic in your mind, you will look around and say, that is true. Because you look at all the animals, everything I have read in history, the cow is still a cow. It hasn't changed its nature, it still has to be led. It still has to be taken care of. But look at from where to where man has changed. Why has man changed this world? It is because he is created in the likeness of God and the image of God. You need to understand what it means. And what is he told? He has been given dominion; ***let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.*** Dominion means he is allowed to rule and subdue all of them. And if you have noticed man has subdued everything. Every animal, every fish, every creature, we use them like toys. An elephant that is mighty carries logs for us. The tiger which is so powerful we lock him up in the Nehru Zoo, you can go and watch him. Anything and everything.

You need to ask this question – how did it happen? You go to the beginning, read the Bible, you will realize that it is because God spoke. If you go to verse 22, you will understand, this is when God is blessing them. This is not about man, God was blessing the other creatures.

Genesis 1:22

²² ***And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."***

That is all He said: be fruitful; multiply; and fill. But man is blessed He adds two more things,

Genesis 1:28

²⁸ ***Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

Subdue and have dominion over everything on earth. To them three things are still working; they multiply, they are fruitful, and they fill, but they cannot exercise dominion. If a tiger exercises dominion the government shoots it dead. There is a tiger that killed a person in Kerala and the forest department took it and the people were protesting saying, 'It should be taken to the zoo, it should be killed.' Just yesterday. God blessed man to subdue and have dominion. So you need to understand what man's mandate on earth was. He was created in the image and the likeness of God. He was to establish God's Kingdom on earth. That was His mandate; a reflection of God's Kingdom on earth. What is that we pray every day? 'Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.' This is the original mandate and we are still praying, because we lost it. Because we do not understand what Jesus came for, we will not have purpose in our lives and our lives are meaningless. We may be successful but at the end of days our lives will be meaningless.

So we realize that man was mandated something. I am not getting into the intricacies of it because those of you who know your Bible you know that before that there was something in the Heaven; God had created the heavens and then the earth. The heavens are where there is the angelic hosts. One angel who was an arch angel rebelled against God, which was over the throne and the government; he took one-third of the angels against God. So there was problem in heaven. So if you read the Bible there is earth which is called the first heaven or the material. Then there is the second heaven, which is the enemy's and the third Heaven where God is. And God being very patient and longsuffering does not destroy everybody immediately because He gives time.

And this fellow whom we call 'satan' in the second realm, which he has created a parallel, fake kingdom; very realistic and parallel but a fake kingdom. He has got millions and millions of angels under him, he influences man. so when people say, 'I was taken in the out of the body, I went elsewhere, it was heaven, I saw this one and I saw that one, I saw this god and that god, realize where they went; they went to the second heaven. not the third Heaven; when they go to the third Heaven there is a different picture altogether which is revealed in *Revelation*, when you go to the third heaven and you see the glory of God. you don't see God, you only see the form of God, the only one you see is Jesus; the Lamb that was slain.

So when people from other religions say, 'I had an outer body experience and I went there' I say, 'Do you know where you went? You went to the second heaven, not the third. It is real.' It is spiritually real.

So there was an issue over there and that fellow comes onto the earth and we know the story. He deceives man to whom authority was given and man believes, he obeys and what happens is that authority is transferred to satan. And Jesus, when He is tempted in the wilderness when satan comes and shows Him the glories of all the world and he says, 'it has been given unto me,' Jesus doesn't say, 'You liar! How dare you say that?' Jesus knows it is true; God gave it to man and man gave it to satan. And that is the true; whatever you believe, whoever you believe, rules over you. It is true. If you are afraid it is because fear rules over you. If you are careless that means you are ignorant; ignorance is ruling over you. Whatever you believe rules over you. So we need to ask questions, serious questions.

If you do not understand the Kingdom of God you will not understand life. You will not really understand what Jesus came for. So you know what Christmas is? Christmas is a declaration of the change of government. Unto us a Child is given and unto us a Son is born. And upon His shoulders is the government. So the wise men come and ask, 'Where is He? Where is He, born King of the Jews?' and Herod and all of Jerusalem was troubled. Did you get it? Jerusalem was troubled.

It is interesting, if you look at human history, all the problems of human history is two-fold; it is by government and by religion. Everybody who has been killed is either by government or by religion. Our problem is problem is two-fold; government or religion. Everybody sitting here, your problem is government. You haven't really understood and accepted Christ as your Lord, your Government. And if you understand Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to teach you, you will first of all learn how to govern yourself, then govern your home. The problem is with government. There is no other problem. It is either religion or government. And who is a rebel? A rebel is he who is against the government. In the old English they use the term out-law. Who is an outlaw? The one who is against the government, so there is a poster stuck out for him, '10,000 \$ dead or alive!' because he was outside the government, he has rebelled against the government.

So you will realize that if you rebel against the government you get into trouble, if you rebel against religion you get into trouble. They will kick you out of religion and suddenly you are an outcast and you realize that nobody from the religion will associate with you. Our problem is with these two; government and religion. And from that day till today man has been experimenting with various types of government. Every government fails. The ultimate finally we are reaching is democracy. But democracy we always say is the tyranny of the majority. If the majority is wrong the whole nation goes wrong. They change laws. What can you do? They will throw the opposition out and pass the laws. It happened last week. If you look at the laws that have been passed last week are such huge important laws which affects all of us. No discussion, nothing, they just passed it. So is democracy good? Yes and no. The right to privacy has been thrown out by some of the laws that has been passed last week in the parliament. That is my fundamental right; God-given right. Because the word 'private' is actually been used by God. right? 'Private property' under God. it has all been taken out.

So we are testing all forms. And it will all fail. But in that failing system, God says, 'You can find purpose if you allow My government to come in.' and suddenly you realize that the problem in our lives is with government; the government of the Lord Jesus Christ. Any problem in the home has got to do with government. We have to make a very honest evaluation on this Christmas day. It is not just about eating and drinking, which will follow, because the Bible says, *'It is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy, that is the Kingdom of God.'*

Eating and drinking is not in the beginning. It is at the end. That is why it is kept at the end. You need to ask this question – Lord, what is happening? Anything you take, personal, family, society, nation, universal, there is not going to be any solution until Christ comes. So it has all got to do with dominion, which means domain; an area over which a king rules. It has got to do with land. You cannot have a king without a land. The Shah of Persia is there in exile somewhere because the mulans took over Iran. He is a king without a throne or a land. He has just got a title. Are you getting the picture?

Please understand one thing before you go home today. By virtue of who He is, He is a Creator, all powerful, all knowing, all present God, He owns everything. We own nothing. That is why the Bible begins – *In the beginning God...* we all have a beginning, God does not have a beginning or an end, He created everything. Everything is His. We own nothing. He owns everything. *Psalm 24:1* says that He has given the earth to man.

Psalm 24:1

¹The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

We are all His; He owns us. Whether we accept it or not He owns us that is why He will throw a certain number of people into the lake of fire because He says, 'You rebelled against Me all your life. You did not accept My Son and receive mercy.' What do we need for our mercy? Mercy. And the only way we can receive mercy is by looking at Jesus. There is no other way. Religion cannot give mercy. No religion gives you mercy. They will say, 'Do this, do this, do this,' whereas Christ gives you mercy.

Psalm 115:16

¹⁶ The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

It is given not as a possession, but only as stewards. The earth is the Lord's otherwise we would live forever right. Once we die somebody takes, your shirt is gone, your pants are gone, your house is gone, everything goes. We own nothing. Understand what is the awesomeness of Christ; God became Man to redeem us from sin and then He is restoring government in us. Then one day, very soon, He will come back and restore government outside. That is called the second coming of Jesus Christ. But when He comes the second time only those who have the government inside will be happy, all the others will be terrified. That is why there is not much excitement in the Church while you have excitement in the world. Why is there no excitement in the church? This is the most exciting news ever. You need to ask – why are people not so excited? I am forgiven, that means even if I die I live forever. If I exercise His government in me then I can rule with Him. But it doesn't excite us. We say joy to the world but there is no joy in us.

Do you know that every battle between the husband and wife is actually about the government? It is scripture, *Genesis 3:16*, after the fall the whole thing changes; the desire to subdue and have dominion is not there. The only problem is

that the government of God has gone away. The government of man has taken over; a tyrannical fallen government. So to the woman He said,

Genesis 3:16

¹⁶To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

Dominion over each other started. That is the problem, the only solution to peace in your family is the government of Jesus Christ. When the government of Jesus Christ comes into a man he becomes patient. He understands. I was telling somebody in the church who came to me last week. I said, 'If you read Scripture where it says, 'Wives, submit to your husband in all things as unto the Lord' men should tremble because you need to understand what that authority means. You see it as power but God sees it as accountability. God has given a man that kind of authority over that woman, then what kind of a man should he be? Bible says, the head of that man is Christ, his authority is Christ. That man has to have the government of Jesus Christ so firmly established in him otherwise he will become a tyrant. You need to understand Kingdom terms. This is all talking about the Kingdom. All the rulers you are seeing today will be gone in 3,4,5 years, they will all go, they will all die and go. But there is one Kingdom that is forever, which is coming; the Kingdom of God. Therefore we should ask these very, very serious questions.

Jesus' message, you have the Person. You saw the purpose and when He started preaching in *Mark 1*. Mark is the first and the short Gospel, straight to the point.

Mark 1:14-15

¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

John is the first one to preach about the Kingdom, 'Repent! For the Kingdom of God is near!' then Jesus steps forward, preaching the Gospel, that is the Good news of the Kingdom of God. Now let me ask you, when you gave the Gospel but did you ever talk about the Kingdom of God? No. we just talk about the Gospel and say, 'Gospel, Gospel, Gospel' and sing, 'Hallelujah' did you talk about the Kingdom of God? The Gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. It is about government. Unless the government of Jesus Christ comes in it is not Good News, it is bad news. It is not Good News, it is bad news. It is Good News only when you understand the King, the nature of the King and allow His government to come in. it is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and saying, "***The time is fulfilled***, it has come, ***and the kingdom of God is at hand***. It is very near. Therefore what should I do? ***Repent, and believe in the gospel.***"

Repent! Change the way you think. Especially us, in a democratic nation, we struggle. You see, I am not like you because I grew up in a monarchy; it was an absolute monarch in the years I grew up over there. It was a king and people wouldn't even lift their heads to look at him. I remember, later when I went back to that country, when I was teaching in an institution when the king came in, I was standing in the line and all my students were there in the line, they were all locals and therefore subjects of the king, I am a citizen of a democracy and I am standing over there, looking him in the eye, he shakes my hand and when I look at my students they were all standing with their heads bowed low, they wouldn't even dare to lift their eyes and look at him. And they wear huge robes with which they cover their faces that even their breath shouldn't displease their monarch. And then when I come back to the class all the students were thrilled saying, 'Sir! Sir! Our king touched your hand.' You need to understand what a monarchy is. That is why when we sing these songs it doesn't affect us because we do not know what monarchy is. Even that king over there, in that small little country, if you ever have an audience and you meet the king, you bend or bow very low, cover your mouth and make your request known to him and when you leave you walk backwards and leave, you dare not turn your back to the king.

If you understand the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, the way you walk in and out, the way you come prepared will be completely different and you will understand that he who is on the side of Truth will hear God's voice. Because the King can only speak to subjects, He cannot speak to citizens of a democracy. That is why we are hopeless, that is why we are aimless, because we do not understand what a Kingdom is. And Jesus says, 'For this purpose I have come. Truly you say that I am a King, but My Kingdom is not from here, it is from above.'

That is why to enter into that Kingdom God says, 'You will need a new birth, this birth is not possible, you have to be born from above by My Spirit, only then you can see and enter the Kingdom of God. There is no other way. And our poor Hindu brother who is a Brahmin who does not understand why he goes to the ceremony and puts the thread, you know what it is? That is when he becomes a Brahmin; meaning he is born of the created god Brammin, not Brahma. He knows that he has to be born again to be a priest. Where did he get it from? It is written – *unless you are born-again you cannot enter into the Kingdom*. But he doesn't know what he is doing. We know. Religions capture the truth but they don't know what the truth is, therefore God says, 'You transgress the commandment of God by your traditions.' Do you know what it means? Have you searched? When you are going through the Brahmin ceremony and wearing all that have you asked – what does it mean? If I have become a son of God then am I acting like that? Has His government taken over? Is there an increase of His government? From 2022-2023 ask – is there an increase of His government in my life? Then I have an increase of peace. His government and peace go together. Ask questions, serious questions. If you don't ask questions you will not get answers. Not that answers aren't there.

So we will go to the final verse for today, then we will wish each other 'Happy Government'. Jesus preaches the Gospel, the Gospel is of the Kingdom of God, and attesting to the power of that Kingdom the sick are healed, demon-possessed are delivered, lepers are cleansed and the blind see. All these things are basically attesting to the Message; this Message is about the Kingdom, the Kingdom overrules every other Kingdom. And the ultimate is casting out demons because the demonic oppression is a sign of the government of satan. Jesus casts out demons. And then He teaches, when He teaches He goes up the mountain. And the disciples follow Him, He sits there and He starts preaching and He will begin, blessed are the poor in the spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. So He is saying, 'If you want to enter into the Kingdom you need to be poor in the spirit.' The proud can never enter. Religion makes you proud. The problem with religion is the more religious we are the more proud we become. The Pharisee is righteous under the law, so he looks down at the other and says, 'Thank You Lord I am not like that fellow.' Religion only makes you proud but to enter into the Kingdom the first quality is – *blessed are the poor in the spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God*. and then He comes to the crux of an entire message. And then He says in *Matthew 6:33*, even if you forget the entire message carry this with you.

Matthew 6:33

³³ But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Go back and listen to the Monday's sermon, this is the question of priority. *In the fullness of time God sent His Son*. So we are prisoners of time. Why do I have to stop? Because of time. What is our life? Caught in time. Born 19__ – died 20__ the small line in between is your life. Your entire life is one small line. We are all caught in time. And the problem is that we only have so much time. And nobody knows how much time. In that time, we need to get saved, we need to establish His government so that we have a hope of the future which is eternity. We have only this much time. The problem with time is that people waste time, people do not know how to handle time. If you need to make use of time, first thing you need in time is first you need to know your priorities. What is important and what is not important. Second thing you need to know is organize your life around those priorities. And third thing is that you need to discipline yourself in your organization. And Jesus gave man only two priorities. He says this is your priority, it is two sides of the same coin – *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness*. He says, if you get these right, organize your life around it and discipline yourself, He says, you are good. Everything else which you have made a priority and you are running after those things will follow you. Whatever you need for this life, Jesus says, 'I will take care of it.' You, yourself, do not know what you need unless you know your purpose. We don't know what we need unless you know your purpose.

How will you know what you need, unless you know your purpose? We watch our throat. Praneeth watches over his throat, why? Because he knows that he needs to sing and I know that I need to speak. Because if I cannot speak my purpose is gone. I have found my purpose and therefore I am very careful about what we drink and what we eat. We watch over our throat because it has got to this with purpose. Others can do whatever you want because your purpose is not connected with your throat because you have not discovered your purpose. So purpose will define, but purpose is connected with setting your priority. First, exclusively seek the Kingdom of God. And in the coming weeks and months we will focus on this. So I pray that all of you, and some children very early in life, will discover purpose in life.

Jesus, at the age of twelve, was in the temple. His parents thought that He was lost. Three days later they found Him and said, 'Son, how could You do this to us?' the Son looks at His mother and says, 'Did you not know that I was at My Father's business?' He knew His purpose. They followed a tradition but He was following a command. Why did you go to the temple? To celebrate a festival. No, to ask questions. And they were amazed at the wisdom and the understanding of this twelve year old Boy, because He knew His priority; it was His Father's Kingdom. Do we know? This Christmas, remember, *'For this purpose I was born; to be King.'*

So this morning the question is not whether He is your Savior, the question is – is He your King? Do you understand monarchy? Do you understand absolute monarchy? Read the Old Testament stories, Esther tells Mordecai, 'I cannot go, though I am the queen I cannot go. If I go without being summoned and if the king does not extend his scepter I will die.' That is the queen, she fasts and goes and the king extends his scepter and says, 'Queen Esther, come. What do you need?'

and to us, who are born of God, God says, 'Come boldly, confidently, to the throne room of grace to receive mercy and grace for every need.' Do we go? Do we understand the Kingdom? Do we understand the King? So this Christmas, before we celebrate, let me ask you, why do you keep saying that when you come to me for counsel I always have only one word to give you? What do I tell you? 'Surrender!' oh! This pastor keeps on telling surrender, because until you surrender the King cannot speak to you. And to those who surrender He speaks. And those who are on the side of Truth hear His voice. Through various means, but they hear.

So this morning shall we stand up, we are celebrating because He came to redeem us and to reconcile us back to God and then restore. What is He restoring? Our original position with God. remember God has only sons and daughters. That is what salvation does. Not servants and slaves. *As many as who received Him He gave them the right, the power to become the sons of God.* Have you received Him? As your Savior? If you haven't received Him as your Savior it is very simple; it is not complicated, it is not like religion – do! Do! Do! Do! It is all done. It is just you coming to Jesus and saying, 'Lord, I heard the message today, I hear the truth, I understand, I am a sinner, I have sinned. And I hear that You died for my sins. Have mercy. Lord, have mercy on me. Forgive me of my sins. And I receive Your Son as m Savior, I receive Your Son as My Lord.

Remember the first message, 'This Jesus whom you crucified God has raised Him up as Lord and Savior.' Lord is a Kingdom term. Savior is a redemption term. Both. Unless you accept Him as Lord He cannot save you. But those who accept Him as Lord He can save you to the uttermost. So this Christmas, let us give Him a gift. That is what Paul says after 11 chapters in the book of Romans. In the light of God's mercies (do you know that mercy is something only a king can extend?) let us offer our bodies as living sacrifices and by the renewing of our mind.

Have you ever asked yourself why we teach in this church for so long? Have you asked – why did Jesus teach for three days and then feed them? Go back and read Acts 1 – what did Jesus do after resurrection for forty days? He taught them the Kingdom of God. You know what, if you are in the Kingdom you will realize that two hours is not enough, forty days is not enough, 3 days of non-stop teaching is not enough. How does the book of Acts end? People came to Paul in his rented house where he lived for two years and he taught them the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. You are bored because you do not understand the Kingdom, or you are not in the Kingdom. Kingdom teaching is preparation for eternity and to fit into the place we are going, so that you are not a stranger there. If you receive that teaching and change accordingly, when you die you are absolutely fine. The Bible says that if you do this and this you will receive a rich welcome into the Kingdom of God. That is the purpose of teaching. It is not about how to prosper in the world, 7 steps and 3 steps. The whole idea is to prepare a Kingdom-people fit for the King and His service. And He says, if you come like that as an overcomer you will sit on My throne as I sat on My throne and reign with me forever. Who gives an offer like that? And yet we are not excited. So this morning, surrender, personally, this is not a corporate thing. You have to do with one-on-one when you go back home. First thing when you wake up in the morning and the last thing you do is, you acknowledge the lordship of Jesus Christ and His government and you say from your heart, 'Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in Me,' and end it by saying, 'for Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Here I am.' See what will happen. Do it for 7 days, 14 days, your life will radically change, because He will start speaking to you;

you have become a subject in the Kingdom. And you will understand that the Kingdom is not a matter of talk, it is a matter of power; the government has come inside, Christ is enthroned.

And parents, just surrender your babies, little ones, just surrender them. Mothers carrying your babies, little children don't worry, just surrender them by faith. That is what Hannah did. She said, 'You give me a son, he will be for You all the days of his life.' She knew only one place where the name of God was, it was in the temple. She went to the high priest and said, 'Here is the boy.' And what that boy became changed human history, because the mother just gave him to the King and to the Kingdom. Do it by faith. 'Here I am, here is my family, here are my children, Lord.' Give it to the King and Kingdom and your life will change.

Closing prayer:

Father, this morning we come to You. We want to thank You Father, because You sent Your only begotten Son to live among us and to die because of us. Jesus, we thank You that You came for us. Spirit of God I thank You that You always point us back to Christ. You said, 'If you lift Me up I will draw all men to Me.' Lord I have lifted You up, I have not lifted up a religion, a church, a denomination, a man, anything. I have just lifted You up. And this message is being heard around the world and right now. And everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus, it is written, they will be saved. And I pray Father, from every place people will call out 'Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Here I am. I believe! I believe! I believe You are the Son of God. I believe that You died for my sins. I believe that You rose from the dead. I believe and I repent and I turn to You Lord. I am Yours, and Yours alone from now. Help me Lord, from this day to seek Your Kingdom and Your righteousness. I will not worry about life and the things of life, for I have the promise of the King, it will be all added onto me. That is the promise of a monarch. The King of kings and the Lord of lords, teach me every day, every day, to put Your Kingdom and Your righteousness first.

Next time I come back to church, read my Bible and listen to the message help me to hear with Kingdom ears. Because You said, what You seek You will find. If we are not seeking the Kingdom we will find things which we are not supposed to find, worthless things. But if we seek the Kingdom and the King and His righteousness every page of the Bible will come alive, for it is about the King, and His Kingdom and His righteousness. Touch every brother, every sister who has come here today for the first time. I pray in Jesus' name, touch Lord, touch every heart, touch every ear, let them know that Jesus is the Lord of every nation and every tribe. Jesus Christ came for every single man and woman on this earth, and He died on the Cross and by His blood, only through His blood we can receive forgiveness for our sins and be delivered. I put our faith in You today. You not only deliver us but You are also our Lord and King and let Your Kingdom be established in our heart, Lord. And Your Kingdom is at hand, Lord. It is written in the Word, in the book of Revelation, that the kingdoms of this world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of Jesus Christ. help us to prepare our lives for that Kingdom that is come. We surrender our lives to You Lord. Whatever days are left we surrender them to You Lord. We surrender our lives to the coming King, His kingdom and His government. Touch Lord every man, every one Lord, touch every brother, every sister, every child, let the government of Jesus Christ be established in us O Lord. We thank You, we just thank You, we thank You. Once again thank You Father, for 11 months and 25 days of Your goodness, for Your lovingkindness and for Your mercy. We just thank You, we praise You, we worship You Lord. Thank You Father. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen.