

“CHRISTMAS FAREWELL”

Text: Hebrews 10:1-22

Subject: Why Did Jesus Leave The Glory Of Heaven On Christmas Day?

Introduction

Fact: Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish believers who were in danger of abandoning their faith.

Fact: Those believers were facing severe persecution and in need of a word of exhortation. (13:22)

Fact: These Jewish converts were tempted to leave the Christian faith and return to Judaism.

Fact: The author, therefore, shows the superiority of the Christian faith over Judaism. (How Christ is superior in every way to the Old Testament economy).

Fact: We discover that the Old Testament “shadow of things to come” had their fulfillment, completion and perfection in Christ.

Made Clear and Simple

1. Christ is better than the angels. (Chapters 1&2)
2. Christ is better than Moses and Joshua. (Chapters 3&4)
3. Christ is better than Aaron’s priesthood. (Chapters 5-7)
4. Christ is better than the former covenant. (Chapters 9-10)
5. Christ’s faith is better than anything. (Chapters 11-13)

And in the midst of Hebrews:

(We discover why Jesus was born.)

Question: Why did God take the form of a man?

Question: Why did Jesus take on a human body?

Question: Why did Jesus leave the glory of heaven?

Question: Why did Christmas Day take place?

Question: What difference does it make in your life and mine?

Why was Jesus born on Earth?

I. To Perfect What The Law Could Not Perfect (Vs. 1-9)

“For the law having a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.” (v. 1)

Question: Why was the Law (and its system of animal sacrifices) inferior and in need of Christmas Day?

Answer: Hebrews 10:1-4 reveals why Jesus came:

1. The Law was inadequate *to declare us righteous* (v. 1)

“Can never make the comers perfect.” (v. 1) means:

- The whole Mosaic system was a “shadow” of something better.
- The Old Testament sacrifices could never give us “perfect standing” before God.
- The Old Testament sacrifices were dragged to the altar (Jesus would come voluntarily).
- The animal sacrifices, under the law, could never declare us pure and holy

before God.

2. The Law was inadequate **to clear our consciences** (v. 2)

"Should have had no more conscience of sins." (v. 2) means:

- If the animal sacrifices availed to remove past sins, the offerer would have no more trouble of conscience because of those sins.
- If the sacrifices were sufficient, there would be no need to repeat them over and over again.
- If the sacrifices were adequate to clear the conscience, then the burning, the smoke, the brazen altar, the smell, the blood, the sacrifices would not need repeating.

3. The Law was inadequate **to make us innocent** (v. 3)

"But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year" means:

- This is reference to the sacrifices made annually on the Day of Atonement.
- As often as the sacrifice was offered, it was acknowledgement of guilt on the part of the offerer.
- The Law system of sacrifices was a continual reminder that guilt has not been removed, and the perfect lamb has not yet arrived.
- The Annual Day of Atonement provided a reminder of sins but no remission of sins.

4. The Law was inadequate **to appease God's wrath** (v. 4)

"For it is not possible that blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (v. 4) means:

- No animal's blood could remove sin from God's sight.
- No animal's blood could cleanse a moral offence.
- No animal's blood could atone or cover sin.
- No animal's blood could satisfy God's justice.

Fact: Because God is holy, He must judge sin!

Fact: Because we are sinners, we faced God's wrath!

Fact: Because of God's holiness and our sin, there was the need for the **Perfect Lamb** to be born on Christmas Day!

Why was Jesus born on Christmas Day?

II. To Make Us Holy As He Is Holy (v. 10)

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Question: What does it mean to be "sanctified"?

Answer: The word "sanctified" here means:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. To be made holy | 3. To be cleansed from guilt |
| 2. To be set apart | 4. To be changed and conformed |

"For both he that santifieth and they who are sanctified are all one; for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Hebrews 2:11)

Why was Jesus born?

1. To sanctify us ***positionally*** (and set us apart as holy, innocent, spotless and pure before Him.)
2. To sanctify us ***practically*** (and transform us in our desires, our actions, our behavior and our motives.)

Why was Jesus born on Christmas Day?

III. To Offer His Life So that We Might Live (Vs. 11,12,14)

“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.” (v. 12)

The bad news is verse 11

“Every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often times the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.”

Fact: Under the Jewish economy, sacrifices were repeated every morning, every evening, and every day. (Why?)

- Because they could never give us access to God.
- Because they could never pay the penalty we owed.
- Because they could never give us peace within.
- Because they could never give us power over sin.
- Because they could never do what on Spotless Lamb could do.

The good news is verse 14

“For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.” (v. 14)

Question: How can Jesus perfect us forever in the sight of a Holy God?

Answer: Three absolutes to understand:

1. Because Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit.
2. Because Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary.
3. Because Jesus was born without a human father.

Therefore

1. Jesus was born without sin!
2. Jesus was guilty of absolutely nothing!
3. Jesus was qualified to offer Himself and take our place as an offering for sin.

Fact: He was perfect – so He could make us perfect.

Fact: He was free from debt – so He could pay our debt.

Question: How do we know that Jesus paid our debt in full?

Question: How do we know that Jesus did what he was born to do?

Two Powerful Truths

... “Sat down on the right hand of God.” (v. 12)

1. **“Sat down”** means:
 - Completeness, finished and accomplished!
 - Jesus sat down to offer Himself no more as a sacrifice for sin.
 - We can add nothing to it (only accept it)!

2. **“At the right hand of God”** means:

- At the place of authority, exaltation and victory.
- Jesus has gone ahead and guarantees victory for those who follow Him.

Why was Jesus born on Christmas Day?

IV. To Conquer Satan Both Now And Forever (Vs. 13,15-18)

“From henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool.” (v. 13)

Fact: Christmas is a victory message!

Fact: Christmas is a message of deliverance!

Fact: The incarnation was to deliver a death blow to Satan. (Genesis 3:15)

“Till His enemies be made His footstool” means:

1. The enemies of Christ are subdued to the power and authority of Jesus.
2. The enemies (Satan, sin, fallen angels, wicked spirits, etc) are under the authority of all who are “in Christ”.

Illustration

“Made His footstool” is a reference to the custom of champions in Jesus’ day.

- A conqueror in battle would put their feet on the neck of their fallen enemy.
- This is a picture of what Jesus has accomplished already!!!

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
(Hebrews 2:14, 15)

In other words

Fact: Satan’s power has been superseded by Christ’s power.

Fact: Satan’s kingdom has been subjected to Christ’s Kingdom.

Fact: Satan’s rule in the believer’s life is no longer because of Christ’s conquering power.

Why was Jesus born on Christmas Day?

V. To Minister As Our Great High Priest (V. 19-23)

“And having a high priest over the house of God...for he is faithful that promised.”
(v. 21, 23)

Question: Why was Jesus born of a woman?

Answer: *“For verily he took not on Him the nature of angels; but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest.”*
(Hebrews 2:16, 17)

How can Jesus be our high priest?

1. He was made like you and me (apart from sin) so that he could suffer with and for you and me.

2. He became “the Son of Abraham” (v. 16) so that he could be the helper and the liberator of all the sons of Abraham.
3. He was merciful (v. 17) so that through His own trials and suffering He can sympathize with ours.
4. He was faithful (v. 17) because he endured to the end without faltering.

Thus: Christ is utterly trustworthy so far as His people are concerned!!!

What is the result of Christ’s ministry?

1. **Boldness**: *“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.”* (10:19)
2. **Confidence**: *“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”* (v. 22)
3. **Assurance**: *“For He is faithful that promised.”* (v. 23)

Glory to God

- We can approach at anytime because of Jesus.
- We can come boldly because of Jesus’ ministry.
- We can draw nigh with unwavering confidence in the one we are approaching.

“He ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

Conclusion

Why was Jesus born on Christmas Day?

1. To perfect what the law could not perfect.
2. To make us holy as He is holy,
3. To offer His life so that we might live.
4. To conquer Satan both now and forever.
5. To minister as our great high priest!

Amen
Bill Kirk