

YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS

Mt 1:21-23

Jelšava, 25. December 2013

Mt 1:21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Mt 1:22-23 Now all this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: ²³Look! the virgin is with child and will give birth to a son whom they will call **Immanuel**, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'

0. INTRODUCTION

- cultivate the sense of wonder, expectation, admiration, tenderness, surprise... = like a child
- especially with God's incarnation – we might not marvel at some things of life anymore BUT Christmas (God becoming a human) is full of meaning which we'll never (on this earth) understand
- Christmas (Incarnation) is even greater than Creation = God's entering into His creation – even the angels marveled at that
- - so let us put our age and cynicism aside and let's marvel at what God has done

0.1 CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT...

- **Luke 2:10** ...good news of great JOY which will be for ALL the people
- **2 Cor 9:15** Thanks be to God for His INDESCRIBABLE (**avnekdih, ghtoj**) GIFT!
- more: Ask: "Christmas – what is going on here?" – God THE CREATOR is coming to be A CREATURE – comparable to the moment of the Creation (Gn 1:1)
- where would you put your baby to be born?
- ...for He will save His people...

0.2 GIVING NAMES TO BABIES

- 27.10.2013 17:35 - BRATISLAVA – The most popular girl's name in Slovakia has been Kristina, boy's name Martin
- How do we choose the names for our children? nice sound – some relative – some friend – some famous person? - in the Bible – real properties (the name characterized the person) – not just "index"

1. THE NAME "JESUS"

- **Is 53:1** Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 - "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" (J 1:14)
- Why did Jesus live thirty-three years if all He came to do was to die for sin? He lived thirty-three years because He had to show what a normal man after God's pattern was like. He died that through His death we might have the source of life that was in Him (see Romans 5:17).¹

1.1 "JESUS" – A COMMON NAME

- **Joshua (=Jesus = the LORD is salvation/the LORD saves** in Hebrew) Son of Nun; **Hg 1:1 Joshua** the son of Jehozadak; **Lk 3:29 Joshua**, the son of Eliezer
- "Jesus" in Latin America
- no special power in the *sound* of the name (**Acts 19:14-15** even sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?")

¹ CHAMBERS, O. *Bringing sons into glory.*

- Where do we look for something extraordinary? – Do we search in wealth, power, education, beauty, fame, numbers...?
- God usually reveals big things through/in common things (- this is His method) = you will find them where you'd least expect it (in a smelly noisy stall with a manger...)

1.2 "JESUS" – THE UNCOMMON REALITY

- **Phil 2:9-10** ...the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus *every knee will bow*, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- invisible PRESENCE – always with you - OMNIPOTENCE – can help - ETERNITY – will be your friend for ever - DEEPEST needs – understands my needs where I do not know myself

2. HE WILL SAVE

Salvation is the biggest, gladdest word in the world; it cannot mean pretence in any shape or form, therefore suppression is no element of the word, neither is counteraction. Salvation is God's grace to sinful men, and it takes a lifetime to say the word properly. Most of us restrict the meaning of salvation, we use it to mean New Birth only, or something limited.²

- ...on earth **PEACE** among men in whom He is well pleased. (Luke 2:14)

2.1 "SALVATION"

- His common name has been fulfilled in its meaning (= the LORD saves)
- Jesus is the *Saviour* not only *a rescuer* → you need personal relationship
 - Look down (to the unpleasant realities of your life) bend – don't get discouraged by the smell or anything else – and you may find the meaning of the gospel where you'd not expect it

2.1.1 SALVATION: RESCUE

- aims at the most important
- → no more fears of the future

2.1.2 SALVATION: VICTORY

- → no more fears of defeat

2.2 THE HUMAN PREDICAMENT: SIN

We have to bring an Absolute Christ to the *needs* of men, not to their conditions.³

- Exodus → wilderness
- Ps 51:
 - (1) blot out my *rebellion*
 - (2) my *iniquity*
 - (3) my *sin*
- sin → punishment; sin → actions; sin → attitudes; sin → power
- = our greatest problem is sin and God's judgment – He'll save the people from their sins – that's the meaning of Christmas
- Jesus points to the real problems, He starts where the source of all the problems lies
- Christmas can be a good news for me only if I've heard/understood the bad news first

3. HIS PEOPLE

- joy to all people: **Luke 2:10** great joy which *will be for all the people*

3.1 SALVATION REQUIRES FULL POWERS GRANTED FREELY

- Jesus is not taking care of anybody – only those who belong to Him
- salvation by **TRUTH** → requirement of *free* commitment

² CHAMBERS, O. *The Philosophy of Sin*,

³ CHAMBERS, O. *Approved unto God*,

3.2 WHO DOES BELONG TO HIM?

- to belong – you must be *bought* – **Acts 20:28** ...church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.

[CHAMBERS] Men and women can be bought. We are bought on the low level of swine, or bribery, or moral compromise, or spiritual insurance; and we are bought with the precious blood of Christ.⁴

- to belong – you must *believe* - **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who *believe in His name*.
- to belong – you must cling to Him *in love* – **1Cor 16:22** If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha

4. CONCLUSIONS

- Understand the nature of the POWER of the Name “Jesus”!
- Desire the gift of the salvation from SINS!
- Become one of HIS PEOPLE! Believe you are bought! Give Him *yourself*!!

⁴ CHAMBERS, O. *Shade of His hand*, p. 1220.