

HE CAME AS A CHILD

"Unto us a child is born." Isaiah 9:6

The prophet Isaiah made a great announcement about the coming of Christ into this world. He said, "Unto us a child is born." This statement denotes the infancy of His state and the reality of His human nature when He appeared in our world. The baby which lay in the manger was not an ordinary one. God was there as never before revealing His love and His power to the children of men. Pagan gods had been portrayed as supermen, but Jesus Christ came as a little child.

There is nothing more illustrative of our humanity than a tender infant. Think of the weakness of an infant, with his dependence upon those who love him. Infancy is a time of need and there is a sense in which we never get beyond it. Into this need Jesus Christ was born with a capacity to explain it and to provide for it beyond man's power to imagine. Think of the possibilities enwrapped in the infant Christ.

If there is something wonderful in any child, as its mother no doubt would fondly say is true, it was especially true with the child Christ Jesus.

In what respects was He wonderful?

1. In His birth.

He was born as nobody else was ever born. Nobody was ever heralded, honored or hated at his birth as He was.

2. In His person.

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:13-16). Here He is represented as the Son of God and the Son of man. At the baptism of Christ Jesus the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). The Son of God became the Son of man in order that we, the children of men, might become the children of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

3. In His life.

"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Peter 2:22).

4. In His teaching.

"Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46).

5. In His mission.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10).

6. In His death.

"Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). He paid the penalty for our sins in order that we might be reconciled to God and have eternal life.

7. In His resurrection.

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:5-6).

8. In His possessions.

(1) His eye to see us.

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good." They are the eyes of love. They are sympathetic eyes, imparting strength and courage to us.

(2) His ear to hear us.

He hears all that we say. As a mother responds immediately to the slightest stir of her child in the night, so the Lord is quick to hear the distress of His own and to assist them.

(3) His heart to love us.

Human love is deep and strong. It manifests itself in kindness and sacrifice. Sleepless watchfulness in times of sickness is evidence of a loving heart. The prayerful anxiety of parents during a child's waywardness proves it again. Christ's love was so great that He died for His enemies.

(4) His hand to hold us.

His hand on us is secure. "The Lord's hand is not shortened that he cannot save."

(5) His word to guide us.

(6) His home in which to receive us.

We shall be completely satisfied when He receives us into our heavenly home.