



God Born as a Baby

FaithBuilder 4 | Lesson 13 | Christmas

Lesson Overview

1. True or False?

Decide whether statements about the Lord's birth and mission on earth are true or false.

2. Read

Jesus came on earth as a baby so He could be attacked by the hells and overcome them, paving the way for our salvation, pp. 2-3.

3. Discuss

In what ways are people similar to or different from God. How do these similarities and differences impact our relationship with God? p. 3

New Church Concept Redemption and Glorification

The Lord saved people and angels through redemption and the glorification of His Human. The work of redemption was a combat against the hells, a subjugation of the hells, and a restoration of order in the heavens. But glorification is the uniting of the Lord's Human with the Divine of His Father. See *True Christian Religion* 126.

True or False?

T F	1. God came to earth because Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
T F	2. Jesus came to earth as a tiny baby because it was the only way the hells could approach and attack Him.
T F	3. Jesus was different from every other person who has been born.
T F	4. Since the Divine was Jesus' Father, Jesus' mother had to be a virgin.
T F	5. If Jesus had not come on earth, the human race would have been destroyed.
T F	6. God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ are the same person.
T F	7. If Jesus is Divine, then Mary is also Divine.
T F	8. Jesus learned everything that is true from the Word.
T F	9. Jesus experienced temptations when He was attacked by evil spirits.
T F	10. Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption and His glorification while He was in the world. This changed His relationship to us.
T F	11. All people are saved because God came to earth.
T F	12. The Lord is constantly saving people who believe in Him and obey Him.
T F	13. God comes to me in my life when I receive Him, and acknowledge Him as my Savior.
T F	14. I only need to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved.

Read

God came into the world at a time of great spiritual darkness. He wants everyone to be free to choose between good and evil, but before His coming the hells had grown so powerful that this freedom was being threatened. The falsity of the hells was so great that even good people were having difficulty seeing what was good and true. So God Himself came on earth as a baby to fight the hells and restore human freedom. The prophecies in the Old Testament were fulfilled when Jesus Christ was born on earth through Mary, a virgin.

After...Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 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. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21

Jesus Christ was different from every human being who has ever been born—His Father was God Himself and His mother was a human being. Having a human mother allowed the hells to approach Jesus, giving Him the opportunity to fight the hells and overcome them. The hells tempted His "human" (from Mary) and Jesus fought against them from His Divine love using His Divine truth to conquer. As He was growing up, He read the Word and understood all the many levels of truth within. As Jesus used these truths to resist and fight the hells, He made His human Divine, and became the Divine Human. His last and greatest temptation took place on the cross. His work was finished when He rose from the tomb.

The Lord came into the world to remove hell from angels and people, and to glorify His Human. He brought hell under control and opened heaven so that from then on He could be present with people on earth, and save those who live according to His commandments. Consequently, the Lord could regenerate and save them, for those who are regenerated are saved. Without the Lord's coming no one could have been regenerated.

The other purpose for which the Lord came into the world—to glorify His Human—was because by this He became the Redeemer, Regenerator and Savior forever. It should not be believed that by the redemption carried out in the world all people from then were redeemed, but that the Lord is perpetually redeeming those who believe in Him and who obey His words. See *True Christian Religion* 579.1-3.

New Church Concept Salvation

Jehovah God came down into the world as Divine truth, in order that He might work redemption. And redemption consisted in subjugating the hells, restoring the heavens to order, and after this establishing a church. *True Christian Religion* 86

In people's temptations the Lord works a particular redemption, just as He wrought a total redemption when in the world. By conflicts and temptations in the world the Lord glorified His Human. When a person is in temptations, the Lord fights for him, conquers the evil spirits who are infesting him, and after temptation glorifies him (makes him spiritual). After His universal redemption the Lord reduced to order all things in heaven and in hell. With a person after temptation He does in like manner—He reduces to order all the things of heaven and the world that are in him. After redemption the Lord established a new church. In like manner He also establishes what pertains to the church in a person. After redemption the Lord bestowed peace on those who believed on Him (see John 14.27). In the same way after temptation He gives a person a sense of peace. From all this it is clear that the Lord is the Redeemer forever. See *True Christian Religion* 599

In one of the prophecies, it was said that the Savior would be called “Emanuel” which means “God with us”. While God has always been present with the human race, His coming into the world made it possible for Him to be with people in a different way. It also helped people have a clearer idea of who He is.

The one God who is invisible came into the world and assumed a Human, not only that He might redeem people, but also that He might become visible, that thereby conjunction with people might become possible. *True Christian Religion* 486.2

Even though the Lord is with everyone, people do not always pay attention to Him as they go about their daily lives. When a person receives the Lord, He can come to that person in a way that is similar to His coming on earth.

His first coming, which is called the dawn, is when the person receives Him, which he does when he acknowledges Him as his God, Creator, Redeemer, and Savior. From this time the person’s understanding begins to be enlightened in spiritual things, and to advance into a more and more interior wisdom. *True Christian Religion* 766

Discuss

Compare Jesus’ life with your own life. Note similarities and differences. How do the similarities and differences impact our relationship with God?

Jesus	Similar or Different?	Me
Origins: Jesus’ parents were		Origins: My parents are
Mission: Jesus came on earth to		Mission: I came on earth to
Learning: Jesus learned the truth by		Learning: I learn the truth by
Overcoming: To fight evil, Jesus		Overcoming: To fight evil, I
Fruits: By overcoming evil, Jesus		Fruits: By overcoming evil, I