



December 26, 2016

So What?!

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21)

Yesterday we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Today is a good time to consider (or reconsider) the answer to this question: “So what?” While the full answer requires more space than we have in this devotional, here are two facts to ponder about this anything but ordinary baby born long ago.

First, the birth of Jesus was planned before the creation of the world. *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world.”* (1 Peter 1:18-20a). God knew, before time began, that we’d need a savior!

Second, the exact year of the Messiah’s birth was predicted by the prophet, Daniel, centuries before it happened. *“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens’ (i.e., 483 years)”* (Daniel 9:25). A sobering thought!

The birth of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy promised by God and his life fulfilled dozens of Old Testament prophecies, proving him to be the Messiah.

So what? This is what. The child born in Bethlehem so many years ago, is Christ the king! Worship him with gladness today.

Question: Are you celebrating the birth of Christ the king this Christmas? Have you accepted this free gift offered and presented to you by God?

Challenge: Read Matthew 1:18-24 and Luke 2:1-20.

Prayer: Thank you God that you loved both me and the world so much that you sent Jesus, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life. Grant me the wisdom, courage and persistence to honor and accept this gift of grace! Amen

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball