

He Was Born to Be
1 John 1:1-3
Christmas Eve 2015

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us – that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

It's Christmastime once again. It's the time when we stop to consider two obscure, ordinary people, Mary and Joseph, and the experience they had in Bethlehem. It's also the time when we consider a little baby boy who was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. A little baby boy born in a little hick town in the backwoods of civilization. A little baby boy probably born in a dirty, nondescript cave stable.

So, what difference could a little baby, born in the middle of nowhere, make in the grand scheme of things in this world? How much influence can one person have in a world full of people? Why was this little baby born? Tonight, we will attempt to answer those questions by examining the question – Who was Jesus born to be?

Jesus was born to be a Revealer.

This little baby came to show the world something. He didn't come to be just another unknown person in an unknown part of the world. He didn't come to live and die without making an impact on the world. He came into the world to reveal to the world the two things the world most wants to know. He came to reveal God, and he came to reveal eternal life.

He came to reveal God. In his Gospel account, John writes: *No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known* (Jn 1:18 ESV). No living human being, past or present, has ever seen God. This baby came to reveal God to the world. He is the only one who could ever reveal God, because he was God!

This baby grew up and revealed God to the world. Everyone who saw him, saw God. It's through this baby that we can see God. We can know exactly what God is like. Would you like to know how much God loves all of mankind? Look to Jesus. Would you like to know how much God hates sin? Look to Jesus. Would you like to know how kind and compassionate God is? Look to Jesus. Would you like to know to what great lengths God will go to save people from sin and hell? Look to Jesus. Jesus reveals God to the world because Jesus is God.

He also came to reveal eternal life. This little baby didn't come to just show us the way to eternal life. This little baby is eternal life. Jesus told his disciples: *I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (Jn 14:6 ESV). He is life itself.

There is no life apart from Jesus. There is no eternal life apart from Jesus. So, Jesus came into this world to reveal. He came to show us God, because he is God. He came to show us eternal life, because he is eternal life. This little baby came into the world for a very specific reason. That reason is you. Through him you can know God. Through him you can have eternal life. Jesus was born to be a revealer.

Jesus was born to be a Conqueror.

In his first epistle, John writes: *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil* (1 Jn 3:8 ESV). Since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, Satan has been working feverishly to deceive all of mankind.

Satan has been working to convince people they can be like God. The Tower of Babel was an effort to show God that people could create their own variety of immortality.

Satan has been working to convince people they can be good enough to force God to accept them. The Pharisees of Jesus' day were sure God had to love them because, in their own eyes, they were so good.

Satan has been working to keep people from knowing the love of God. Christians have always been demonized by the unbelieving world. Today Christians are often looked on as narrow-minded, hateful, bigots.

Satan has been deceiving people into worshiping other gods. In his letter to the Roman Christians, Paul writes: *Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things ... They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator* (Ro 1:22-23, 25 ESV).

However, Jesus came to be a conqueror. He *appeared to destroy the works of the devil* (1 Jn 3:8 ESV). He came to take back the territory that had been under Satan's control for thousands of years. He came to take back the hearts and minds of the multitudes who had been deceived, and he is still doing that today.

He came to bring the grace and mercy of God to all people. He came to destroy the prison walls that Satan had built in people's hearts to keep them imprisoned in sin. He came to invade and conquer Satan's territory and to build his church on the ruins of Satan's kingdom.

Because of the work this little baby did during his life on earth, we have the opportunity to be truly free. We can be free from the works of Satan. We can be free to experience the grace and mercy of God. We can be free to live life and live it to the fullest.

Jesus was born to conquer. He conquered Satan. He conquered death. He conquered sin. We can have true freedom because our conquering Lord and Savior has given his victory to us.

Jesus was born to be a Reconciler.

Life without Christ puts us at odds with God. God is a holy God. Because of God's holy and sinless nature, sin cannot exist in God's presence. This creates an unpassable barrier between us and God. We are sinners. We are born sinful. We commit sins daily. Our entire lives, birth to death, are marred by sin. Our sin and our sinfulness separate us from a holy God. There is no way we can reconcile ourselves to God on our own.

But Jesus is the great reconciler. That little baby was born in Bethlehem to bring people to God. He is the bridge that crosses the unpassable barrier and allows us access to God. Jesus fills the chasm that exists between sinners and God. By his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus has reconciled the human race to God. Jesus has reconciled you to God.

Jesus was born to be a Savior.

Over and over, Scripture speaks about Jesus as our Savior.

He came so he might take away our sins: **1 John 3:5** *You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.*

He came into the world to save sinners: **1 Timothy 1:15** *The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

He came to save his people from their sins: **Matthew 1:21** *[The virgin] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*

He came to seek and save the lost: **Luke 19:10** *The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*

Why was the little baby boy born in the little town of Bethlehem? He was born to save. He was born to save by giving his life so that others might live. He was born to die for you.

He was born to live a sinless, perfect life. He was born to sacrifice his sinless, perfect life for those who were born sinners. He was born to die for his friends and his enemies. He was born to pay the price of all sin. He was born to pay the price of your sin.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him (Jn 3:16-17 ESV).

Why was that little boy born? He was born to give you eternal life. If you believe in Jesus as your Savior, if you put your faith and trust in him, then as Scripture promises you will not perish. You will have eternal life.

What was Jesus born to be? He was born to be your Savior.