**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Sermon**

**God Moves in Humanity – Miracles**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

*Pastor ~ Matthew Diehl*

December 19th In the Year of Our Lord - (Anno Domini A.D.) 2021

(Unless otherwise noted, NAS is quoted – New American Standard Bible)

Read and/or print sermon notes from our website – roundtopchurch.org

**Matthew’s Gospel**

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:

 when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,

before they came together

she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

 19 And Joseph her husband,

being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her,

planned to send her away secretly.

 20 But when he had considered this,

 behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,

"Joseph, son of David,

do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife;

for the Child

who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

 21 "She will bear a Son;

and you shall call His name Jesus,

for He will save His people from their sins."

 22 Now all this took place

to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"

which translated means, "GOD WITH US." (Isaiah 7:14)

**Isaiah 7:14** "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah 9:7** There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep

and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him,

and took Mary as his wife,

 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son;

and he called His name Jesus.

We receive many facts and truths from God revealed in this Biblical account of the Incarnation.

**1**. The long looked-for and anticipated Messiah arrived.

**2.** God’s Holy Spirit continues to work in the affairs of people.

**3.** God works through cultural norms to accomplish His goals.

 Mary did not have any previous relations but became with child.

**4.** God sends angels to deliver messages to people.

**5.** God can calm our fears in difficult situations.

**6**. God can biologically interact with people. (Mary with child)

**7**. God directed the gender of a child to be born.

“She will bear a Son”.

**8.** God’s intent/desire is for people to be saved from their sins.

God so loves the world that He gave His unique Son to pay for the sins of the world.

**9.** Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled that God is with us.

**10.** People/Joseph can follow God’s commands for their/others good.

**What a story!**

Parents and church leaders recount this biblical story every year to children. Then children go to school and hear a totally different account of how life began. . . thereby dismissing the validity of the Incarnation. We must remember that the Incarnation of God to Jesus is the creation of life outside human ability. The Incarnation takes place because the One and only Creator, our God, chose to move in the affairs of humanity. God did it again in the Incarnation. God created people to have a spiritual relationship with Him (Genesis 1-2). In the Incarnation, God used the same life-creating power and authority to bring about life in His image with a design/ability to have a spiritual relationship with Him. In Jesus’ life, He demonstrated this at His water-baptism, showing us that God intends for His Spirit to dwell in us. Jesus highlights several times the oneness of the Believer’s life with God. One message the Incarnation delivered was that God desires to be with us.

Example: **John 17:26**

22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, **just as We are one;**

23 **I in them and You in Me**, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, **be with Me where I am,** so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;

26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me **may be in them, and I in them**."

When we read the Bible, we see that Jesus is clear that people are created with the ability to have God’s Spirit indwell them. Jesus presents this all-in-one reality for the Believer’s relationship with God. Along with Jesus’ words in John, we need to take into account His teaching to Nicodemus in John 3 concerning being re-born of Spirit. In addition, God states, through Paul, that if His Spirit of Christ is not in a person then they do not belong to Him (Romans 8:9).

 There are numerous passages of Scripture detailing the oneness God has with Believers. There is not any doubt that it is God’s Holy Spirit binding us to Him.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

**2 Corinthians 6:16** Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

**John 14:17** that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

**Romans 8:11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

**2 Timothy 1:14** Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

**Galatians 4:6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

**1 John 4:13** By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

**Ezekiel 36:27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

**Does the world lend to the fact that people are created with the ability to have a spiritual relationship with God?**

**God Works Through Non-Believers**

To our surprise, knowing the opposition in our fallen world. . . the National Geographic magazine has published articles and videos, over the years, covering the study of human brains around the world to determine if we are hard-wired for religious experiences. On February 21, 2016, they aired “Brain Games: The God Brain”. Also, see this short online article by Neuroscience & Neurology, titled “God And Religion: Is It All In Our Heads?” by Jennifer Gibson, PharmD | June 15, 2008. The article ends with a question. Is religion just a byproduct of evolution that enables us to cope with life’s struggles or was the brain intelligently designed by a creator to appreciate the world in all its spiritual wonder? <https://brainblogger.com/2008/06/15/god-and-religion-is-it-all-in-our-heads/>

Remember that God stated to us in Romans 1:18- 20 that He reveals himself to us through the creation, through what He has made. So, it is with good reason that the more we accurately study our brains and neurological systems, the more we see God at work in us from the beginning. God desires to be with us and in us. We see this in the Incarnation.

**John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. . .”

**Whose *Miracle* Do You Want to Believe?**

Of course, we know that the fallen secular humanistic world has a different account of how life began that purposely leaves God from their equation. Basically, no *miracles*. . . I mean. . . biblical *miracles* anyway. But they call upon us and count on us to gullibly accept their *miracles*. Yes, I did not misquote anything. I said their *miracles*. Instead of understanding God’s miracles, they present their own. “Scientism” presents *miracles* in the pursuit of Darwinian Evolution*.* I see that if you really look at what “scientism” teaches, you have to make a decision on which *miracles* you want to believe. God or theirs? “Scientism” is a word to describe people who present themselves as scientists pursing objective investigations but refuse to look at, or give credibility to, anything that might remotely point to “God did it”. That is why the National Geographic publications are so rare.

How many miracles can we count? We know the fallen RUMPP community dismiss God’s testimony and witness in His Word, the Bible about all things. . . especially the incarnation of God to be one of us. By the way, who is the RUMPP community. You may remember they are the Random Undirected Meaningless Purposeless Process people. These are the ones who discount the *miracles* of God but teach the whole world that our biological mass came from a RUMPP. . . a one-time primordial soup that through RUMPP got heated and struck by lightning to kick off the four macromolecules: carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids to form the first cell of life. Officially, I came up with the RUMPP acronym.

The RUMPP community does not have any proof for their teaching. They simply buffalo children and adults through so-called science articles that fail their own scientific process. They present observations that are foundational to their argument but when pressed on the substance we find they have none. They present ideas as facts based upon their desire to prove Darwin right. Darwin called upon future scientists to prove his ideas to be correct because he could not. This is why their leading characters have to admit the truth when confronted by scientists like Dr. James Tour. I challenge anyone to bring forth an article from Nature or any other journal that has proved their ideas.

The Biblical miracles in the Christmas story present love, joy, hope, forgiveness, grace and peace for the world. This is what sustains human life. If we do not have love, joy, hope, grace, forgiveness and peace. . . then humanity implodes on itself and dies. The 20th century proved this with two World Wars and the advent of the nuclear age of war. Without people surrendered to God as the Creator of life and pursuing His principal guidelines to sustain life. . . humanity kills itself.

By the way, life is something that can sustain itself and reproduce. This is one of the main problems with any scientific experiment in the origins of life. What is produced in a test tube is challenged to reproduce itself. I have presented this challenge previously referring to the works of Dr. Douglas Axe and others. (See book *Undeniable - How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed* – June 27, 2017.) Dr. Axe mathematically proves that life’s origins are not by chance. In short, due to the complexities of life functions within the cell, life cannot design itself. Life is a God thing. Like the creation of life, the Incarnation of God is mathematically staggering to contemplate that it could have happened by chance. Like the creation of life. . . the Incarnation would not have happened without God.

 Here is a short list of a few prophetic miracles pointing to God’s Incarnation.

The virgin shall conceive (Matthew 1:21-23; compare Isaiah 7:14)

Born In Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:4-6; Micah 5:2-5)

Out of Egypt I called my son (Matthew 2:14-15; Hosea 11:1)

Rachel weeping for her children (Matthew 2:17-18; Jeremiah 31:15)

He would be called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:23; Isaiah 11:1-5; 53:3)

The spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:16-17; Malachi 4:5-6)

The Son of the Most High (Luke 1:31-33; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Isaiah 9:6-7)

Abraham and his offspring (Luke 1:46-47; 54-55; Genesis 12:3; 17:4-5; 22:18)

Prepare the way of the Lord (Luke 1:76-79; Malachi 3:1; 4:2; Isaiah 9:1-2; 40:3-5)

A light for the Gentiles (Luke 2:28-32; Isaiah 9:1-2; 42:1-7; 49:5-6)

The Statistical Probability of Jesus Fulfilling the Messianic Prophecies

Published on February 18, 2020 by Nick Cady

According to one calculation, there are 332 Messianic prophecies from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), which Jesus fulfilled.

This is why the Dead Sea Scrolls are such a big deal: they date back to about 100 years before the birth of Jesus, which shows us that the prophecies which Jesus fulfilled were indeed written before his birth and were not later redactions or additions. See: Why the Dead Sea Scrolls Matter for Christians

**Peter Stoner’s Calculations**

Professor Peter W. Stoner was Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College and Chairman of the science division at Westmont College. In his book, *Science Speaks*, Professor Stoner outlines the mathematical probability of one person in the first century fulfilling just eight of the most clear and straightforward Messianic prophecies.

Josh and Sean McDowell quote Stoner in their book, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*:

 We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 1017 (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000).

In case you’re wondering, the Mega Millions had a $1.6 billon jackpot in October 2018, and the odds of winning it were merely 1 in 302,575,350.

Stoner went on to calculate the probability of one person fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 in 10157.

In case you’re questioning whether Professor Stoner’s math was wrong, H. Harold Hartzler, PhD, of the American Scientific Affiliation, Goshen College, writes in the forward of Stoner’s book:

 The manuscript for *Science Speaks* has been carefully reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members and by the Executive Council of the same group and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way.

<https://nickcady.org/2020/02/18/the-statistical-probability-of-jesus-fulfilling-the-messianic-prophecies/>

 Therefore, we have a story to pass on to our children and grandchildren about the prophetic miracle of Jesus’ birth. We can open the eyes of those who have never heard the accurate story of God coming to be one of us. . . And God so loved the World.

So, Merry “Jesus” Christmas. . .

A “once-in-a-creation” event

 that saved the world.

 A M E N