

THE STORY OF GOD: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

PHIL. 2:5-11 — DEC 20, 2009

What was Jesus like before He was born?

Paul teaches that Jesus was equal to God the Father (v.6).

Jesus taught this himself — John 10:30-33.

So before Jesus was born —

He had always been;

He was full of joy in the fellowship of the Trinity;

He had infinite power and authority.

What happened in Jesus becoming a man?

Jesus laid aside the use of His God-powers and privileges (v.7).

He fully became a man (v.7).

1. Jesus laid aside His position as God to be born as a baby.
2. Jesus laid aside His majesty to live in humility.
3. Jesus laid aside His infinite power to live in weakness.
4. Jesus laid aside His pain-free existence to be beaten, scourged, crucified.
5. Jesus laid aside His glory for the shame of the Cross.
6. Jesus laid aside His Father's love to endure the Father's wrath.

Why would Jesus do this?

Because even though we've turned our backs on God, and deserve infinite punishment, Jesus cares for us, loves us, wants to save us.

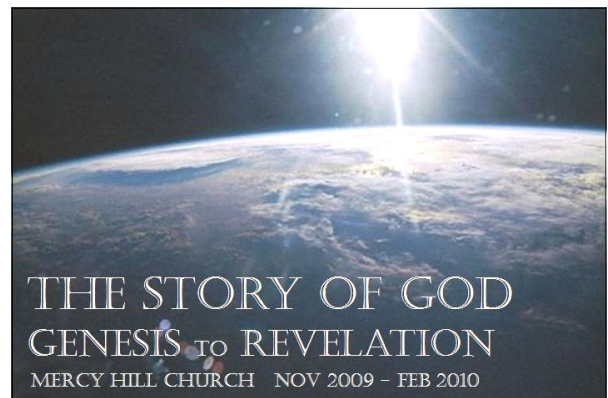
We are saved by owning up to who Jesus is, bending our knee before Him, and trusting Him. When we do that we are forgiven, our hearts are changed, and we experience all that God promises to be for us.

What does God the Father do for Jesus?

Raises him from the dead; highly exalts him; gives him the name above every name.

At the Second Coming every knee will bow before Him.

So bend your knee before Him and trust Him.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Does it make sense to you that Jesus is equal to God the Father in every way? Why or why not?

Which of the six aspects of Jesus' lowering was most meaningful to you? Why?

Have you come to the place in your life where you see who Jesus is, bend the knee before Him, and trust Him?

What are some areas of your life where you have not been bending the knee before Him or trusting Him? Can you see how right it would be for you to bend the knee and trust Him? Why or why not?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

