Why Jesus Came

(A Christmas Message)
Selected Scriptures
12/25/2009

Introduction: Hebrews 10:5-7

Many opinions exist as to why Jesus came into the world.
Some say to provide social justice; others say to set an example of righteousness; others say to revolutionize government.

But what did Jesus Himself say His reason for coming into the world was?

I. Jesus came to accomplish the <u>Father's will</u> (Hebrews 10:5-9)

II. Jesus came to fulfill the <u>O.T. Law</u> (Matthew 5:17)

III. Jesus came to <u>save the lost</u> (Matthew 18:11; Luke 9:56 & 19:10)

IV. Jesus came to give abundant <u>Life & Light</u> (John 10:10 & 12:46)

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V. 5

This Messianic prophecy in Psalm 40:6-8 would find fulfillment in Christ.

When Christ came into the world, He did not have to offer sacrifices, but His own body which He would give to be crucified as the ultimate sacrifice for mankind.

"A body hast Thou prepared Me" - A quote from the LXX (Septuagint).

Psalm 40:6 in the KJV reads, *"Mine ears hast Thou opened."*

"'*Open ears'* signified a readiness to hear and obey the will of God. . . *'Open ears'* indicate a body ready for service." (Wiersbe, p. 111).

V. 6

"No pleasure" - God was <u>not</u> satisfied (in terms of His wrath being completely appeased and His perfect, holy standard being satisfied) with any of the animal offerings presented on Israel's altars.

--It would take an <u>infinite</u> sacrifice to satisfy infinite holiness.

--It would take a <u>perfect</u> sacrifice to satisfy perfect holiness.

--It would take a <u>righteous</u> sacrifice to satisfy righteous holiness.

God takes no pleasure in any of man's attempts (no matter how great and sacrificial and sincere they may be) to appease Him and earn His forgiveness.

"All of our righteousnesses (to appease God) *are as filthy rags"* (Is. 64:6).

SEE: Isaiah 53:10-11 -- The only sacrifice which pleased and satisfied God was that of His Son.

V. 7

"Lo" - Look, behold, take notice!

"I come" - the pre-existent Christ came into the world

"It is written of Me" - so much of the Old Testament is specifically written about Jesus Christ.

"To do thy will" - Christ fulfilled the desires of God the Father (do you?)

V. 9

"He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second" - God was prophesying through David that He would take away the first covenant (which required animal sacrifices) that he might establish the second covenant (testament) which would be sealed with the blood of His own Son.

II. Jesus came to fulfill the O.T. Law (Matthew 5:17)

V. 17

"Think not that I am come to destroy the Law" - Jesus, before explaining the O.T. Law and its true meaning, qualifies what He is about to say so as to let everyone know that He was not against the O.T. but 100% for it.

You see, Christ's teachings were radically different (superior) to that of the Scribes and Pharisees. When His message would be compared with that of the religious leaders of the day, the distinctiveness (uniqueness) of Christ's emphasis and application might lead some to the wrong conclusion that He was against Moses and the Prophets.

The repeated phrase "Ye have heard..." followed by "But I say unto you" (v. 21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, 43-44) might lead the spiritually illiterate to err in thinking that Christ was opposed to O.T. teaching, when in fact He is for it -- He authored it!

"Destroy" - to abolish, do away with, tear down, annul.

Christ's purpose was definitely not to eradicate the Law (the Pentateuch and the O.T. historical books) and the Prophets, but to show the true meaning of them; i.e. to divinely interpret the O.T.

Jesus had all authority on the matter of interpreting the O.T. because He was the Author of the O.T. ("In the beginning was the Word" - Jn. 1:1), the Theme of the O.T. ("He [Moses] wrote of Me"], and (as He says in this verse) the Fulfillment of the O.T.!

"I came to fulfill" - My purpose in coming to this earth (a hint at Christ's pre-existence) was to fulfill the Law and prophets (i.e. the entire O.T.).

"To fulfill" means to accomplish or carry out. Christ in every way did what the O.T. required in the matter of righteousness and prophetic fulfillment.

There are 2 aspects to Christ's fulfillment of the O.T. -

1. He "fulfilled all righteousness" (Mt. 3:15) [precept]
2. He fulfilled and will fulfill all promises and predictions [prophecy]

1. Christ fulfilled all of the precepts of the O.T.

--He was sinlessly perfect!
--He was morally impeccable
--He was in absolute conformity to the O.T. in every jot and tittle
--He could never be accused of violation of truth or transgression of principle

Jesus could boldly ask and challenge the entire world with this question, "Which of you convinced me of sin?"

Heb. 4:15 - He was "without sin"

Heb. 7:26 - He was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens"

II Peter 2:22 - He "did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth" (cp. Is. 53:9)

Jesus was the only one who could point out sin in the lives of others without a finger of accusation being pointed back at Him. He was the only one who could rebuke hypocrisy, lawlessness, disobedience, and lies without a guilty smitten conscience

2. Christ fulfilled and will fulfill all of the prophecies of the O.T.

--All prophetic types and foreshadowings (Ex. the sacrificial system)
--All prophetic details of His incarnation, life and ministry
--All prophetic promises of His second coming and eternal rule

Matthew's Gospel (the theme of which is to validate Jesus as the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah) continually records the phrase "That it might be fulfilled" (EX: 26:56)

A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy. It is said that 333 distinct prophecies
were literally and exactly fulfilled at the first coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by
accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000--plus 90 more zeros).

For every verse speaking of Jesus' first coming in Scripture, there are eight which speak of His
second coming.

The World in general is quite familiar with some of the details involving Christ's birth.

Many know of the angels announcement to the shepherds…
Many know of the humble stable and manger…
Many know of the wise men who came to worship him…etc.

Did you know…

a. The O.T. tells us where the Messiah would be born:
Answer: **BETHLEHEM** (Micah 5:2)

Micah 5:2
But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

b. The O.T. tells us when the Messiah would be born:
***Answer:* 483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem**
(Dan.9:25; Neh.2:5)

Da 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

c. The O.T. tells us how the Messiah would be born:
***Answer:* Of a VIRGIN** (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Mt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

d. The O.T. tells us <u>the names and titles</u> of the Messiah who would be born:

Answer: **Wonderful - Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6)

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

e. The O.T. tells us <u>what</u> the Messiah would be like and <u>how</u> He would be viewed and treated when He came into the world:

Answer: **Humble & Rejected** (Isaiah 53:1-3)

Isaiah 53:1-3
Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? [2] For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. [3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

VI. The O.T. tells us <u>why</u> the Messiah would be born:

Answer: **To Suffer & Die for the Sins of the World** (Isaiah 53:4-12)

Jesus stated His purpose for coming with these words:
Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Paul stated the purpose for Christ's coming with these words:
1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The writer of Hebrews stated the purpose for Christ's incarnation with these words:
Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.
Hebrews 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

III. Jesus came to <u>save the lost</u> (Matthew 18:11; Luke 9:56 & 19:10)

Matthew 18:11
For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.

Luke 9:56
For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*…
Luke 19:10
For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

IV. Jesus came to give abundant <u>Life & Light</u> (John 10:10 & 12:46)

John 10:10
The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

"The thief" – Satan and his co-workers. His goal is to <u>steal</u> false sheep, <u>kill</u> false sheep, and <u>ruin</u> (destroy) false sheep.

Note: He cannot permanently seize and destroy Christ's sheep.

Christ came that His sheep might have:

1) Life (eternal life both now and forever)

2) Abundant life (joyful, fulfilled, spiritually rich and satisfying life)

Jesus gives both <u>quantitative</u> life (it lasts forever) and <u>qualitative</u> life (it is very good and satisfying)

"Abundantly" = to have a surplus; more than enough; a life that is filled and overflowing with all that gives joy, meaning, and sustenance to life.

The Christian life is not a life of dull boredom, but or rich joy, purpose, and fulfillment.

"Jesus not only gave His life <u>for</u> us (v. 11), but He gives His life <u>to</u> us right now!" (Wiersbe, p. 330).

John 12:46

I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.