

Week 52
357/08

Transforming Daily
“... the light of men ...”
John 1:4

One of the most attractive features of the Word of God is the way that from Genesis to Revelation the story of Christ is inextricably interwoven throughout its pages. Take for instance the gospel of John. Like the gospel of Mark, conspicuous by its absence is a genealogical storyline of the Savior's birth, from the gospel of John. Or is it?

What is the storyline of Christ's birth in the gospels of Matthew and Luke? Do they not record the history of the incarnation of Jesus Christ? The difference is the details of lineage. In other words, Matthew and Luke tell the story from an anthropocentric perspective whereas John tells the story from a Theo/Christo-centric perspective. All the details are there, they are just presented a little differently.

Matthew and Luke talk about God overshadowing Mary that she would be with the Child of the Holy One. John talks about the same relationship of the Christ-child to the Holy One by saying that He (Jesus) was in the beginning, He (Jesus) was in the beginning with God, and that indeed He (Jesus) is God. This is very important especially with respect to the account of the birth of Christ in Matthew and Luke, and John's description in verse 14 of his gospel – “and He became flesh.”

Further it is also important to understand the significance of the stars and lights in relationship to the birth of Christ recorded in the accounts of Matthew and Luke. Lights shown, lights drew, and lights directed whether shining from stars or angels. John's account says the same thing. Jesus is the life and the light of men. The records of Matthew and Luke regarding the statements from Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Simeon, and angels, etc., said the same thing about who Jesus was and why He was coming – to save His people from their sins.

Why did they need a Savior to save them from their sins? Sin is often associated with darkness. Therefore, as the Savior, the Light of the world, He would shine forth in the darkness (John 3:16), the people would see their sin, repent, and trust Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Or not, but they would have no excuse if they didn't or don't (John 1:1013).

Have you made this discovery? Are you trusting Jesus as your personal Savior? What a Christmas gift to give to God. After all, He offers the best gift ever given, and He is the best gift ever to be received as the light of men.