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**Four Accounts,**

**One Story**

Part 2

12-20-15

*“The significance of Jesus’ birth is best understood in the* ***totality*** *of his life,*

*teachings, death, and resurrection.”*

**1. Matthew**:

*“The story of Christmas is rooted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

**2. Mark**:

*“The story of Christmas requires our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

**3. Luke**:

*“The story of Christmas invites our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

**4. John**:

*“The story of Christmas restores our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*

Four different Gospel accounts yet one conclusion:

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**!

How?

* Intellectually
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Emotionally
* Relationally

Matthew 1:16-25

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. (ANNOINTED ONE – The Christ) 17  All those listed above include **fourteen** generations from Abraham to David, **fourteen** from David to the Babylonian exile, and **fourteen** from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

18  This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was **engaged** to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. 19  Joseph, her fiancé, was a good man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. 20  As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21  And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22  All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: 23  “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” 24  When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. 25  But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

**The Birth of Jesus in the New Testament:**

**One Event – Four Narratives**

**1. Mark**

*It is not important where a servant is born*

*or from which family he comes,*

*it is his service that defines him.*

*Mark defines Jesus’ mission and ministry*

*by His* ***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** *to others!*

**2. Matthew**

*The birth event of Jesus fulfills prophecies made in the Old Testament and makes use of these prophecies to present Jesus as a governor, the ruler of Israel, a prince,*

*and as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

*Matthew, in his powerful birth account, presents Jesus, in fulfillment of the prophecies and hopes of the Hebrew Scriptures, as the King of the Jews who has been given all authority in Heaven and Earth. He is Emmanuel, God with us.*

**3. Luke**

*Luke wrote his Gospel primarily for a Gentile audience and focuses on the traditionally marginalized and neglected people groups.*

*The beautiful birth narrative of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel illustrates the complete kenotic act of God in Jesus, born among the poor and rejected, bringing good news of*

*peace and kindness to all.*

**4. John**

“…and the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us”.

*John writing to Greek-speaking Gentiles across the Roman Empire explains that in Jesus, the Word becomes flesh and chooses to dwell with us and thus we all have been witnesses of His glory which is full of grace and truth.*

*John clearly communicates that Jesus’ birth is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ event in the history of the world. God became flesh and so is shining His light in darkness, an event that mirrors the creation of the heavens and earth.*

**Conclusion:**

The four Gospels in the New Testament present four unique and yet complimentary pictures of Jesus -- and this is evident in the way they record the birth of Jesus:

* Matthew presents Jesus as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Luke shows a humane \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Mark presents Jesus as the Lord that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* John presents Jesus as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_