

THE CRADLE, THE CROSS, AND THE CROWN

Philippians 2:5-11

Introduction:

1. During Christmas, we remember the Savior's birth, but Jesus told us to remember His death (I Cor. 11:26).
2. To attempt justice to our Lord, we need to remember the cradle, the cross, and the crown.
3. The cradle was positioning our Lord for His divine purpose—the cross and then the crown.

I. (vv. 5-7) THE CRADLE.

1. The cradle was marked by poverty among mankind.
 - A. (v. 7) He made of Himself reputation, took on Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.
 - B. He who was the divine majesty of God emptied Himself and took the form of a servant.
 - C. Jesus laid aside His role of exalted glory to come to a sin-cursed world.
 - D. He laid aside the praises of the heavenly to endure the punishment of the earthly.
 - E. He laid aside the pleasures of God to endure the pressures of sinful mankind.
 - F. The cradle was the revealing of the pre-existent Christ, clothed in majesty, yet born in poverty.
 - G. II Cor. 8:9 – ***For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor that through His poverty we might be made rich.***
 - H. Col. 1:16-17 – ***For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created by Him, and for Him; and He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.***
 - I. In that cow trough, lay the hope of the world and the rock of the ages.

2. The cradle was marked by praise and persecution from men.
 - A. Heavenly host sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to men."
 - B. The shepherds and wisemen came to adore Him.
 - C. Herod wanted to kill Him.
3. His childhood was marked by puzzling religious men.
 - A. From the flight to Egypt until 12 years of age, we don't have biblical records about Jesus.
 - B. In Luke 2:41-52 it records Jesus being in the Temple.
 - 1) (v. 47) Those who heard Jesus 3 days were astonished.
 - 2) The crowd no doubt had forgotten He wrote the book!
 - 3) As they interviewed Jesus, these probably were some of the questions:

	<u>Mother's side</u>	<u>Father's side</u>
a. What's your name?	Jesus	Immanuel
b. How old are you?	12	Everlasting
c. Where did you come from?	Bethlehem	Heaven
d. What are your plans?	The Cross	Resurrection

II. (vv. 7-8) THE CROSS.

1. (v. 8) ***He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***
2. Christ's humility was demonstrated at the cross.
3. He who planted the tree then died upon it.
4. It's not the emblem of the cradle, but the cross, that symbolizes victory.
5. It's from the cross we see the nature of our Lord:
 - A. Luke 23:34 – ***Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.***
 - B. Luke 23:43 – ***Today, you shall be with Me in paradise.***
 - C. John 19:26-27 – ***Woman, behold your Son . . . behold your mother.***
 - D. Matt 27:46 – ***My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?***
 - E. John 19:28 – ***I thirst.***
 - F. John 19:30 – ***It is finished.*** (Paid in full)
 - G. Lk 23:46 – ***Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.***

6. II Cor. 5:21 – ***For He has made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.***

7. The highlight of the cross was crowned by an empty tomb.

On the Cross the Message was

1. One of tears
2. One of crucifixion
3. One of hanging
4. The Darkness of Death
5. Christ had died
6. Sinners stripped Him
7. Picture of Gloom
8. Tragedy due to sin
9. Wearing a crown of thorns

From the Empty Tomb

1. One of triumph
2. One of commission
3. One of Hallelujah
4. The dawn of a new day
5. Christ is risen
6. Saint adore & worship
7. Picture of Glory
8. Triumph free from sin
9. Crowned in hearts—

King of Kings/Lord of Lords

III. (vv. 9-11) THE CROWN.

1. What a day it must have been when the ascended Lord got back to heaven!
2. Zechariah 13:6 – ***And one shall say unto Him, what are these wounds in your hands? Then He shall answer, “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”***
3. II Pt 1:17–***This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased.***
4. Revelation 19:12 – ***His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself.***
5. Some of the names given to our Lord are as follows:
 - Gen. 7:16 – Door to the ark of salvation
 - Gen. 22:13 – The sacrificial Lamb
 - Ps. 23:1 – The Shepherd
 - Ps. 24:7 – The King of Glory
 - Ps. 32:2 – The Rock in a weary land
 - Ps. 61:2 – The Rock that is higher than I
 - Ps. 62:6 – The Rock of Defense
 - Ps. 62:7 – The Rock of Strength
 - Ps. 89:26 – The Rock of our Salvation

Ps. 90:2 – The Everlasting God

Ps. 94:22 – The Rock of Refuge

Song of Solomon 2:1 – Rose of Sharon, Lily of the Valley

Isa. 9:6 – Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Isa. 28:16 – Our Precious Cornerstone

Jer. 8:22 – The Balm of Gilead

Dan. 7:9 – The Ancient of Days

Matt. 3:3 – The Voice of one crying in the wilderness

Luke 1:78 – The Dayspring from on High

Jn 1:29 – Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world

Jn 3:29 – Our Bridegroom

Jn 6:35 – The Bread of Life

Jn 9:5 – The Light of the World

Jn 10:7 – The Door of the Sheepfold

Jn 15:1 – The Vinedresser

Jn 15:5 – The Vine

Rom. 11:26 – The Deliverer

I Cor. 3:11 – The Sure Foundation

I Tim. 2:5 – Our Mediator

Heb. 2:10 – The Captain of our Salvation

Heb. 4:14 – Son of God

Heb. 6:20 – High Priest after the order of Melchizedek

Heb. 12:2 – The Author and Finisher of our Faith

I Pt 2:25 – Shepherd and Bishop of your Souls

I Pt 5:4 – Chief Shepherd

I Jn 2:1 – Jesus Christ the Righteous

Rev. 1:8 – Alpha and Omega

Rev. 3:14 – The Faithful and True Witness

Rev. 21:23 – The Eternal Light of that City

Rev. 22:16 – The Root and the Offspring of David,

The Bright and Morning Star

6. (v. 9) The new name in heaven will be superior to others.

7. When Jesus returned to heaven after His ascension He was welcomed, and the heavenly choirs may have sung this:
Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory: The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7-10)
8. All hail the power of Jesus's name, let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of all.
9. He wore a crown

On the Cross

Crown of humiliation
Crown of Dismay
Crown of Torture
Crown of Thorns for death
Crown bruised his brow
Crown of Mockery

Today

Crown of Exaltation
Diadems
Treasure of God
Crown of Life
Crown blessed his brow
Crown of Majesty of God

10. We will take our crowns and cast them at Jesus's feet.
The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that is seated on the throne and worship Him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for You have created all things and for Your pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:10-11).

And they sang a new song, saying, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation and have made us unto our God a kingdom of priests and we shall reign on the earth Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing (Revelation 5:9-10, 12).