



The Advent of Jesus Christ:

Who is This Child?

Hebrews 1:1-4

Pastor Brad Wood

This week we took time to study how Christmas invites us to look beyond the trappings of the season and ask the most profound question: 'What child is this?'

Drawing from Hebrews Chapter 1, we discover that the baby in Bethlehem is nothing less than God's final and complete Word to humanity. The message takes us on a journey through Scripture, showing how the Old Testament prophets spoke in various ways, yet their words all pointed forward to the ultimate revelation: Jesus Christ Himself. We're reminded that this helpless infant lying in Mary's arms is the very Creator who spoke the universe into existence, the One who holds all things together by the word of His power. The scientific community searches for the 'cosmic glue' that keeps atoms from flying apart, yet Scripture has already named this force: Jesus.

What makes this Christmas message so transformative is its emphasis on why Jesus came: to solve the deepest problem of human existence...our sin and selfishness. The celebration isn't just about commemorating a historical event, but about recognizing that this same Christ must be born in our hearts.

Until we personally accept His sacrifice and submit to His lordship, Christmas remains an incomplete celebration. This teaching challenges us to cut through the commercialism and cultural additions to rediscover the heart of Christmas: God's incredible love for us, expressed through His willingness to become vulnerable, to enter our world, and to redeem us from hopelessness.

Key Takeaways:

1. **Jesus is God's final Word to humanity** - All that God wanted to say has been said through His Son
2. **Jesus is the Creator and Sustainer** - The baby in Bethlehem made the universe and holds it together
3. **Jesus solved the problem of sin** - He provided purification for our selfishness and guilt
4. **Jesus is worthy of all worship** - Angels and all creation bow before Him
5. **Christmas is about relationship** - Christ must be born in our hearts, not just celebrated externally

5-Day Devotional and Small Group Guide

Day 1: The Final Word of God

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Devotional: Throughout history, God spoke through prophets, dreams, and visions—yet something was still incomplete. The Old Testament saints longed to understand fully what they were seeing. Then came Christmas: God's final, complete Word wrapped in swaddling clothes. Jesus didn't just bring a message; He IS the message. Every question about God's character, every wonder about His heart toward humanity, every mystery about life's purpose finds its answer in Christ. Today, reflect on this: the baby in Bethlehem is God's ultimate communication to you. He didn't send another prophet or vision—He sent Himself. What is God saying to your heart through Jesus today?

Application: Read one of Jesus' teachings (perhaps Matthew 5-7) and ask, "What is God's final word to me here?"

Day 2: The Creator Becomes Created

Reading: John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-20

Devotional: The mind struggles to comprehend that the powerful, eternal hands that formed galaxies came into this world as tiny infant hands. The voice that spoke worlds into existence became a newborn's cry. Jesus, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together, chose the vulnerability of human birth. Scientists search for the "cosmic glue" holding the universe together, but Scripture names Him: Jesus. This Christmas, you're not celebrating a great teacher or moral example. You're celebrating the Creator entering His creation, the Sustainer becoming one who needed sustaining. He who holds atoms together allowed Himself to be held in Mary's arms. Why such humility? Because He loves you that much.

Application: Look at creation today—stars, trees, or even your own hand—and worship the One great enough to make it all yet who chose to become small for you.

Day 3: The Problem Solver

Reading: Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 1:5-9

Devotional: Humanity's deepest problem isn't political, economic, or educational: it's spiritual. Sin—rooted in selfishness—stains every heart and separates us from God. No amount of self-improvement can wash it away. But Christmas announces the solution: Jesus came to "purge our sins." The manger led to the cross, where Christ bore our selfishness, guilt, and shame. The good news isn't just that He came, but why He came: to cleanse what we cannot clean, to solve what we cannot solve. Then after His work was completed, He sat down at God's right hand. Whether your sin is fifty years old or five minutes old, Jesus has the power to wash it away completely. Therefore, following your repentance, you can know that your salvation is complete in Him.

Application: Confess a specific sin to God today and receive His complete forgiveness. Thank Him that the work is finished.

Day 4: The Brackets of Time

Reading: Revelation 1:8; Matthew 24:3-14

Devotional: Jesus stands at both ends of history. He created all things in the beginning; He will inherit all things at the end. This truth transforms how we view current events. Behind the chaos filling our newsfeeds is a mighty hand blending and bending all things toward His purpose. Jesus controls not just physical forces but all events, permitting some things that shock us while restraining others we'll never know about. We're living in the "last days" between His first coming and His return. While we don't know the exact timing, we live with expectant hope, heads up, watching for His soon return. Christmas reminds us that God keeps His promises: He came once...and He will come again.

Application: When anxiety about world events rises, pause and pray, "Jesus, You are in control. Help me trust Your sovereign hand."

Day 5: Worthy of All Worship

Reading: Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: The account we are given of Christmas doesn't end at the manger: it crescendos in heaven's throne room. The Lamb who was slain receives worship from every creature as they cry out, "Worthy is the Lamb!" Angels, elders, and all creation join in thunderous praise. This is where history is heading: universal acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord. Christmas invites you into this worship now. The baby in Bethlehem is the King on the throne. He humbled Himself to the point of death so that you might be redeemed. Your response? Join the eternal song. Let gratitude pour from your heart. Christmas isn't truly Christmas until Christ is born in your heart...until you bow before Him as Lord and Savior. Has that happened for you?

Application: Spend time in worship today. Play a hymn, read Revelation 5 aloud, or simply kneel and declare, "Jesus, You are worthy of all my worship."

Practical Applications:

1. **Prayer: Daily Worship** Each day this week, spend 5 minutes reflecting on one aspect of who Jesus is from Hebrews 1:1-4 and worship Him for it.
 - Monday: Jesus as God's Word
 - Tuesday: Jesus as Creator
 - Wednesday: Jesus as Sustainer
 - Thursday: Jesus as Savior from sin
 - Friday: Jesus for being worthy of worship
2. **Reflection: Gratitude Journal** Start a Christmas gratitude journal, writing each day about what Jesus' coming means to you personally.
3. **Scripture Study: Memorize Hebrews 1:3** - "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
4. **Accountability: Family Reset** Have a conversation with your family about what Christmas means. Perhaps remove or reduce one commercial element and add something that focuses on Jesus (reading the Christmas story together, serving others, giving to missions, etc.).
5. **Thankfulness: Share the Story** Invite someone to church or share with them the answer to "What child is this?" Use the Christmas season as a natural conversation starter.

Small Group Guide: What Child is This?

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding Jesus as the Creator of the universe change the way you view the baby in the manger at Christmas?
- Pastor Brad mentioned that Mary 'pondered' who Jesus was even after the angel's announcement. What aspects of Jesus' identity do you find yourself still pondering and trying to fully comprehend?
- In what ways have you allowed the commercial aspects of Christmas to overshadow the true meaning of celebrating Christ's birth, and how might you refocus this season?

- Hebrews 1:3 says Jesus is 'upholding all things by the word of His power.' How does knowing that Jesus holds the universe together affect your perspective on current world events and personal anxieties?
- Pastor Brad stated that the root problem of humanity is sin, which is—essentially—our own selfishness. How does Christ's birth in Bethlehem specifically address this core issue in your own life?
- Why do you think God chose not to reveal the exact date of Jesus' birth in Scripture, and what does this teach us about how we should approach celebrating Christmas?
- How does the image of your Great High Priest 'sitting down' at the right hand of God after completing His work give you assurance about your salvation?
- Considering that angels and all creation worship the Lamb as described in Revelation 5, how should this vision of Jesus' ultimate glory shape the way you celebrate and worship Him this Christmas season?

Further Discussion Questions:

- Read Hebrews 1:1-4 together. What stands out to you most about how the writer describes Jesus?
- The passage in Hebrews mentioned that God spoke "at various times and in various ways" through the prophets in the Old Testament. Why was Jesus needed as God's "final word" to humanity?
- What does it mean that Jesus is "the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person" (Hebrews 1:3)?
- Pastor Brad mentioned that scientists have discovered a mysterious "cosmic glue" holding the universe together. How does knowing that Jesus "upholds all things by the word of His power" affect your view of current world events?
- Discuss this statement: "What's wrong with humanity is a lack of Jesus." Do you agree? How does this perspective differ from what the world says about humanity's problems?

- In Luke 2:19, it mentions that Mary "pondered" who this child was. What aspects of Jesus' identity do you find yourself still pondering or struggling to fully comprehend?
- Pastor Brad quoted: "Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, until He's born within your heart, your life is still forlorn." What does it mean for Christ to be "born in your heart"? Share your testimony of when this happened for you.
- How does the commercial, cultural version of Christmas distract us from the true meaning? What specific distractions have you noticed in your own life or family?
- Read Revelation 5:6-14 together. How does this picture of Jesus as the Lamb who was slain impact how you celebrate Christmas?
- What is one way you can refocus your Christmas celebration this year to make Jesus the central point?
- Who in your life needs to hear the true meaning of Christmas this season? How can you share it with them?

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