

## What Jesus Thought of Christmas

### Hebrews 10:5-9

No book in the bible presents a bigger profile of Jesus than Hebrews. What did Jesus call the Father here? He called Him His God. This should give us a clue that something big is happening here. Our text takes us all the way outside of time, all the way outside of history, and all the way inside of God. Let me give you a clue. **How many babies do you know who were talking intelligently on their way to their own birth?** This reveals what Jesus Himself thought of His own coming.

#### FOUR IDEAS DESCRIBING WHAT JESUS THOUGHT ABOUT CHRISTMAS

##### I. HE SAW HIS COMING AS AN EMBODIMENT FOR THE WORK OF GOD.

“...a **BODY** hast Thou prepared Me..” This speaks of that awful night when God walked down the stairs of heaven with a **baby** in His arms. He came down to take a body that, except for **sin**, was exactly like your body. This introduces the great doctrine of the Incarnation of God in Christ (Joh 1:14; 1 Tim 3:16). The word *prepared* is the word that means to engineer. It is the same word used in Psalm 139 for how God stood over your mother’s body and wove the pieces of your body so you are distinctively and wonderfully made for **God’s** own purpose. 1. Step one is that Jesus pre-existed before His entrance into time and history in human flesh. 2. Step two is that the Father pre-planned and prepared the body He would live in during the years of His Incarnation. 3. Step three is that Mary His mother presented Him bodily to the world through the portal of biological birth. I wish for you a MARY Christmas. In Luke 1:34, you see, the first doubter of the Virgin Birth was the virgin herself! She said, *How can these things be seeing I’ve never had intercourse with a man?* In answering her question, the angel said, “...that Holy thing that is born to you shall be called the Son of God.” God had never been a thing! He had always on only been pure spirit. God Who had only been pure spirit, passes incredibly into substance and becomes a "thing"! God Who invented the world has now invaded the world in human form! There are many reasons, but the bottom line is that Jesus became a human being in order to have a mortal nature, a nature that is capable of dying.

II. HE SAW HIS COMING AS A COMMITMENT TO THE WILL OF GOD. In verse 9 Jesus said, “Lo, I come to do Thy will, O God.” The first word, “Lo,” means that something special, and solemn, and surprising (even shocking), is about to be revealed. The word “I”, or “ego” in Greek, is the universally, and biblically recognized term for personality. Then note the third word is “come”. Has it occurred to you that Jesus Christ is the only person about whom it could technically be said that He “came” into the world? You didn’t come. *You were brought* by someone else’s intent and agency. Note that He did not come merely to consider God's will, or to analyze it, or to approve it, or to discuss it, or to endure it. He came to do God's will. How many wills were involved in His coming? Jesus never exercised his own will independently of that of God the Father. So the will of the Father was always matched by the willingness of the Son. Then notice what Jesus called His Father in this verse: “O God.” You see, for about 33 years, Jesus was a worshiping, dependent human being like you and me — in addition to His being

God as He had always been. So Jesus regarded His coming as an **Embodiment** for the **Work** of God, and as a **Commitment** to the **Will** of God.

**III. HE SAW HIS COMING AS A FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD OF GOD.** In verse 7, the verb, "it is written", is a **perfect** tense verb. This means that everything about His **coming** (everything about His **Incarnation**) was recorded in God's Book, the Bible, long before it ever occurred. His very **Conception** was according to the volume of the book. His **Character** was according to the volume of the book. His **Conduct** was according to the volume of the book. His **Conversations** among men were according to the volume of the book. His **Capability** to save is written in the volume of the book. His **Cross** was according to the volume of the book. His **Conquest** of sin and death, and hell, were according to the volume of the book. His **Coronation** at the end of history, and in the hearts of people today, is according to the volume of the book. Everything was pre-written about Him. He's the only person who ever lived who's total **history** was written in advance. The Old Testament foretold Him as a **Person**, and it foretold the **Pattern** and **Purpose** of His life as well. And when He came, He fulfilled **all** that was written about the days of His flesh upon earth. Indeed, the entire Bible might properly be viewed as one great **portrait** of Jesus. In the Bible, the **"background"** of the portrait is the Old Testament. Usually the background of a portrait is full of shades and **shadows** — in order to not call attention to the background itself, and in order to **publicize** the person. The visible **person** in the Biblical portrait is Jesus. This part of the portrait, the visible person, is essentially **seen** in the four Gospels. Then, the "garments of glory" which He **"wears"** are revealed in the Book of Acts through the Book of the Revelation. Jesus is the inexhaustible **"Subject"** of the great Bible-portrait.

**IV. HE SAW HIS COMING AS A SETTLEMENT OF THE ONLY WAY TO GOD.** The tenth chapter of Hebrews presents a fantastic contrast between the Old Testament **preparation** and the New Testament **presentation**. The Old Testament economy was *full of shadows*, but was *without substance*. The word "image" in this verse is the Greek word **"eikon"**, the word which would be used for a statue, a portrait, or a photograph. There is a **contrast** between **"shadow"** and **"substance"**. You can't have a **shadow** without a substance. The substance casts the shadow! So we learn a great secret: Jesus, the Substance, was there **before** the Old Testament shadows were "cast!" And the Bible was written **"backwards,"** from the substance to the shadow. Then, the Old Testament economy was marked by a **repetition** of sacrifices, but **no remission** of sins. Similarly, the Old Testament economy was marked by a constant **remembrance** of sin, but **no removal** of sin. The word **"remembrance"** is the very word Jesus used in His institution of the "Lord's Supper". Our **Enemy** would have us constantly obsessed with our sins. Which do you think of most, your sins or **Jesus**? **So we have a salvation that is accomplished--by one man, at one time, through one act, and it's permanent!**

#### **LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**

1. You, Christian, are the *body* Jesus uses today to accomplish the work of God.
2. How committed are you to the *will* of God?
3. Are you actively engaged in performing the *work of God*?
4. Is your Christmas focus the *Presents* of **THE PRESENCE**?
5. If you don't know Jesus as Savior today, accept His **PRESENCE** into your life today.