

“Divine Birth”  
Christmas and Carols

December 4, 2016  
Our Redeemer  
Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

*[Human Birth]*

She was about to give birth, being great with child!  
The journey was long and drawn out.  
The journey was tiring.

Down, down, down they went.

Up, up, up they went.

And that cycle was repeated over and over,  
over and over until the birth of the child.

I am talking about Kara and I  
and the birth of my daughter Grace.

I bet you though I was talking about Mary and Joseph  
and the birth of our Savior Jesus.

Before Grace was born, Kara was given orders to not leave the hospital,  
but get out and walk

So down twelve flight of stairs we would walk.  
Kara bracing herself against me.  
Then we would ride the elevator to the top of the hospital  
and walk down the stairs again. We did that for hours. Literally.  
Down and up... over and over again.

The journey of Mary and Joseph wasn't in a hospital,  
but across the rugged Judean landscape.

Down, down, down into the valley they traveling couple would go.  
Up, up, up the mountain they would climb.

They had to travel 80, maybe 90 miles to the city of Joseph's ancestors:  
south along the flatlands of the Jordan River, then  
west over the hills, no mountains surrounding Jerusalem,  
and on into Bethlehem.

There is a similarity between the two tails, and that is just the point.

We can so relate to the birth of Jesus the Christ.

Each of us can tell stories about the birth of our children

Or our sister's children

Or our friend's children

We can so relate to the birth of Jesus the Christ.

through the human nature.

**[Two Natures]**

Christ's humanity was not a mere fleshly shell that God rented and used  
for a temporary amount of time.

God did not just come to live in flesh as a man,  
but the 'Word became flesh' (John 1:14).

God incorporated human nature into His eternal being.  
In the incarnation, humanity has been permanently incorporated into the Godhead.

God is now a man in addition to being God.

At the virgin conception God acquired an identity  
He would retain for the rest of eternity.

His human existence is both authentic and permanent.  
Jesus' humanity is not something that can be discarded  
or dissolved back into the Godhead,  
but He will always and forever exist in heaven as a glorified man,  
albeit God at the same time.

Upon his ascension, Jesus was not deified, but rather was glorified.

Likewise, at his birth, Jesus did not shed his divine nature!

True God. True Man.  
100% God. 100% Man.

**[Divine Birth]**

As I have already said, you can relate to the human birth of Jesus.

***BUT How much have you thought about the divine birth of Jesus?***

Have you thought about where Jesus came from?

One of my recent favorite Christmas songs comes from Matthew West. It is called “Leaving Heaven.” Hear the lyrics.

*Well, it's been real nice living way up here  
In paradise, over the atmosphere  
But I can't stay long, gotta make my way  
I'm leaving Heaven today  
You see the world is dark and it needs a light  
I'm gonna hang a star in the eastern sky  
So everybody's gonna know where I touch down  
I'm leaving Heaven right now  
I'm gonna walk around that broken Earth  
Trading in these streets of gold  
So if you ever wonder how much you're worth  
You should know  
That you're the reason why I'm leaving Heaven  
Ain't gonna be no kingdom, ain't gonna be no crown  
Just a little old manger, in a little old town  
But it'll do just fine for this humble King  
I'm leaving Heaven let all the angels sing*

This song helps us to focus on where Jesus was coming from.  
From heaven to earth...

***How much have you thought about the divine birth of Jesus?***

Jesus is omniscient – that means all knowing.

Being cradled in Mary's arms, Jesus knew all things.

**THINK ABOUT THIS...**

The baby Jesus knew the sins you have committed.

The baby Jesus knew the sins you will commit.

The baby Jesus knew the sins of your forefathers, and...

The baby Jesus knew the sins of your descendants.

**I MEAN REALLY THINK ABOUT THIS...**

When the shepherds hurried to see the new born babe, Jesus knew all things

The baby Jesus knew the coming temptation of the Devil.

The baby Jesus knew the coming trail,  
the trial of the Pharisees and Saduccees, Herod and Pilate.  
The baby Jesus knew the torture of the cross, and ...  
The baby Jesus knew the death to come.  
But more than that,  
the baby Jesus knew the resurrection of Easter morn, and  
the baby Jesus knew the resurrection of you, on the last day.

With a baby, we think you have so much to learn, but  
with THIS baby,  
with the baby Jesus, he knew all.

To get at this idea, I like to say,  
“The *cosmic*, almighty God in an itty-bitty living space.”

The Word took on flesh.  
Jesus tabernacles with us.

**[Conclusion]**

From heaven to earth,  
He who knew all, submitted ... to be all...

To be your all in all, to be your everything.

In the babe of Bethlehem,  
In the crucified of Calvary,  
You have a Lord and Savior.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
“Joy to the World”  
SO  
“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”  
All in a little baby. AMEN!

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, ...  
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations,  
for ever and ever! AMEN!