

# A Child is Born”

By Tony Melton

At this time of year many are reflecting on the birth of Christ. As one reads the Bible, it is immediately apparent that the word "Christmas" is not within its pages, nor can one determine the month when Christ was born. Most Bible scholars freely admit that no one knows when He was born. It is unlikely that the shepherds would have had their flock in the open field at night (Luke 2:8) in December. Jesus' birth may have been in July or some other time.

The Bible does, however, speak about the birth of Jesus. As we consider His birth we realize that it was very unique in many ways.

First, the birth of Jesus was unique because it fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies. For example, Isaiah spoke of Jesus' birth about 700 years before it took place. He said, "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). Mary gave birth to Jesus just as the prophet had said. Later, Matthew records, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).

Second, Jesus' birth was unique because it was contrary to human nature. Has a virgin ever given birth to a child? Mary even asked, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" (Luke 1:34). Mary gave birth to the Child of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' mother was a human being and His Father was the God of heaven. Those who believe that God created the human race have no problem in accepting that Jesus was born of a virgin.

Third, the birth of Jesus was unique in the effects it produced. It caused the ruler of the land, Herod, to massacre all the male children of Bethlehem below two years of age. Herod had heard that Jesus was a king. Apparently, he wanted to get rid of Jesus, because he felt that his own position was being threatened. Also, the wise men traveled from the East specially to see king Jesus. When they arrived at the house where Jesus was, they worshipped Him and presented gifts to Him (Matthew 2:11). In addition to this, an angel spoke to the shepherds in the fields, and told them, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

The birth of Jesus was truly unique. Because He was born and because He lives, the human family has hope. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).