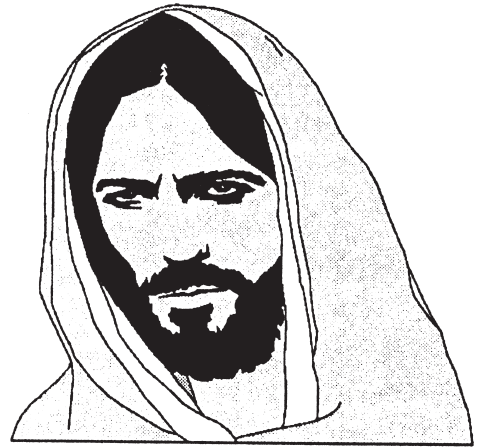


WHY DID CHRIST COME?

The first visit Jesus made to Nazareth, after entering his public ministry, is marked with unusual importance. "He entered, as his custom was, into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." When He had finished, he said, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4.18). That which Isaiah had written as prophecy concerning the work of Christ was now to become history.



FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN... AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED "WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE." (ISAIAH 9.6)

~~Ro. 1:16-1~~ 1. Christ came to preach the gospel to the poor. In Palestine you had the rulers, the wealthy, the powerful—and the poor, the downtrodden, the underprivileged. The Jewish doctors, disdained Christ, but, "the common people heard him gladly." Preaching to the poor was proof that he was the Messiah. (Matthew 11.4), 5

~~Ro. 1:12~~ His Name

2) Christ came to bind up the brokenhearted. Those who are deeply afflicted find consolation in Christ. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." To his disciples he said, "Let not your heart be troubled." For those weighed down by calamities and sin, there is a balm in Gilead.

WONDERFUL

Because He took the sinner's place,

And died to save a guilty race,

Because He stooped to bear the shame;

Forever Wonderful His Name;

~~Ma. 11:28-30~~

3) **Christ came to deliver the captive.** The Jews should have understood this figure for they had been captives in Babylon. How miserable they had been! How they longed for freedom! But there is yet another bondage: sin. (John 8:34). But "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32; 17:17

4) **Christ came to give sight to the blind.** A newspaper columnist saw a blind man in Central Park in New York with a placard, hanging around his neck: "*It is May, and I am blind.*" Jesus gave sight. There is, however, a greater blindness... spiritual blindness. But weep not. Christ came "*to open the blind eyes*" (Isaiah 42:7).

5) **Christ came to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.** The allusion here is to the Jewish year of Jubilee. Every 50th year slaves were set free; debts were forgiven; and all property went back to the original owners. It was the year of release. Christ came to sound the jubilee-trumpet, to let the whole world know that "*now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation*" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Why did Christ come? Read carefully Luke 4:18, 19 and you will find the answer.

—JOHN GIPSON
Little Rock, Ark.

COUNSELOR

Because He bids me come and ask,
For guidance in my daily task,
In Him alone all wisdom found;
So be His name with honor crowned.

~~...whoever committeth sin...serveth~~
MIGHTY GOD

Because, though veiled in lowly guise,
He came from far beyond the skies,
To all the world the tidings tell,
His name is blest Immanuel.

EVERLASTING FATHER

Because He lived a life below,
That men might thus His Father know;
The Spirit thence bears witness plain—
Now, "Abba, Father," born again.

PRINCE OF PEACE

Because, as once by shepherds heard;
"Good will to men." This blessed word
Proclaimed while angel chorus sang
Till all the hills of Judah rang,
Will be proclaimed the world around
Tell He as King of kings is crowned.
Then all earth's wars and strife shall cease;
The world shall own Him Prince of Peace!

—Francis M. Burg
(Submitted by Luella Combs)