

APRIL - 2017
† For the Joy of Your Salvation! †

As I write this it is Friday, March 24. Tomorrow (again from this date of composing this article) is March 25.

So what, you ask? What's the big deal?

Count forward nine months and you will find yourself in Bethlehem. Tomorrow, March 25, is the Annunciation, the Conception Day of Jesus Christ!

Yes, next month is Easter when we once again rejoice in the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus. But Jesus got to the birth, the suffering, the crucifixion and cross, the descent into hell, the empty tomb, rising from the dead, ascending into heaven, sitting at the right hand of our heavenly Father, and ready to return in judgment – because He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary!

God becomes no bigger than a dot to save a universe!

He doesn't just send a child to do a man's job. He sends an embryo to do a God's job!

March 25 is the day you can find yourself shaking your head at the crazy, backwards ways of God. He leapt from His throne above and landed as a two-celled embryo inside the womb of an unwed teenage virgin. Wow!

He knew exactly what He was doing and what He was getting into. When the Word became flesh, He was becoming one of us – *for us* – for good. He didn't come to walk a mile in our shoes. He chose to live for the rest of eternity in our skin!

For the joy set before Him, He entered the womb, suffered through diapers and thumb sucking, wrestled through puberty, fought the good fight, endured the cross, exploded from the tomb!

For what joy?

*For the joy of calling you sister and brother,
flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone.*

For the joy of your salvation!

It all began inside a virgin. There an embryo named both Jesus and true God lived. There God became man while remaining God. All so that you might become sons of heaven while remaining sons of earth. In what seems foolish to us, the Father sends tiny solutions to solve big problems.

If you have ever doubted God's commitment to you; if you have ever wondered, does He really, truly love me; if you have ever struggled, failed, cried your heart out and not trusted if He is really there for you in it all -- --

His incarnation removes that doubt!

God became a man forever. And in this, He became your brother, your kinsman redeemer, the God who would move heaven and earth to save you.

In that un-mighty dot of a human embryo dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily! And that is all you need! For time and eternity!

God knew exactly what He was doing! All of it FOR YOU! For the joy of your salvation!

The peace of the Lord be with you!

Pastor Bert