

Great Expectations

Clarified Expectations

Selected Scriptures

1. He is for All People (Matt 2:2, 10-11; Luke 2:10, 32)

Though Jesus was born in humble circumstances, His arrival was hailed by people from diverse social groups and from both Jews and Gentiles. This was in harmony with God's gracious actions in the past (Josh. 2:12-13; Ruth 1:16-17; 2 Ki. 5:8ff) and with Jesus' commands and actions in the future (Matt 8:10-12; 28:18-20; John 4:7-45). The reality that Jesus is for all people and that all people need Jesus should drive our interactions with others (1 Cor. 9:19-23).

2. He is the Savior, Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11, 30)

Jesus was certainly a good man (Mark 10:17-18), a good teacher (Matt. 7:28-29), and a good example of righteousness (1 Cor. 11:1), but He is not merely all of those things. The shepherds expected Him to be the awaited messiah and deliverer, but few people anticipated that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham (Luke 1:73) who would save people from their sins (Matt. 1:21). Jesus has revealed God to men because of what He said (Col. 1:15; cf. Heb. 1:1-2) and because of who He is (John 1:1-3, 14; Col 2:9; Heb 1:3).

3. He will be Opposed by Many (Luke 2:34)

Jesus was opposed by kings, religious leaders, and regular people throughout His life because of who He is and what He did (cf. Luke 4:43-44). Men naturally desire things which oppose God (Gen. 6:5; 8:21), and so opposition to Jesus is and His message was to be expected (John 8:42-45). The message of the cross will continue to be opposed by men because its message is offensive to the natural man (John 8:31-33; cf. Rom. 3:11).