



THE KING HAS COME





Dr. James Montgomery Boice was the pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. In addition to his congregational work, he taught on the 'Bible Study Hour' international radio broadcasts and was a well-known conference speaker. A former chairman of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy and was a founding member of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. He was a prolific author who wrote over fifty books including Bible commentaries, doctrinal studies and devotional themes. He passed away in 2000 at the age of 61.





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THE REAL MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

James Montgomery Boice

CHRISTIAN
FOCUS





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To our
Wonderful Counsellor
Mighty God, Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace





PREFACE

About ten years ago I added to my regular output of substantial Bible study books a short collection of Christmas sermons that I had written over the years I had been preaching at Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. They were published by Moody Press in Chicago, and they were very well received. One hundred thousand copies were sold in the first three months, and the next year Billy Graham offered the book over the air to supporters of 'The Hour of Decision'. Therefore, when I learned of the interest of the editors of Christian Focus Publications in a new but similar collection, I was delighted to respond with the messages appearing in this volume.

These studies range over the entire Bible, starting with Genesis, but they focus on the birth accounts in Matthew's and Luke's gospels, as one would expect of Christmas sermons. As far as dates go, the sermons were preached in Philadelphia during or near the Christian seasons of 1983 to 1990.

Why should anyone want to publish a book of Christmas sermons?

Why indeed! Christmas is the season of the year in which believers in Jesus Christ from around the world mark the greatest of all the Bible's miracles, namely, the taking upon himself of a true human nature and body by the second person of the holy Trinity. The proper term for





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this miracle is the Incarnation, and it is this doctrine that stands at the very heart of Christianity. No other religion has at its core the person of one who himself is both fully God and fully man. Even more significant is the fact that no other religion has as its chief doctrine the claim that in the person of this unique God-man, God himself paid the price of our salvation by dying to save us from our many sins.

A religion like this might seem to be inexplicably mysterious, obscure, hard to figure out. And it is true that these doctrines are beyond our full human understanding. Yet this does not mean that Christianity (or Christmas itself) is unfathomable.

It has its mysteries: the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the amazing love of God for rebellious human beings. I deal with these and other mysteries in the present volume. I even ask (and answer) the question: Isn't the whole thing absurd?

But the message of Christmas is not only mysterious and puzzling. It is also profoundly simple and appealing, as people of all races and backgrounds have recognized now for nearly two thousand happy years. It tells of a humble couple who wanted only that the will of God should be done in their lives, the birth of a baby in a stable when the parents could find no space in the crowded inn of Bethlehem, the visits of poor shepherds and of rich and distinguished Wise Men, and, most beautiful of all, the announcement of the angel to the shepherds, which was at the same time also an announcement for all persons:

'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'



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This was followed by the appearance of a great company of angels, who praised God, saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour
rests’ (Luke 2:10-14).

That day, so many hundreds of years ago, was the greatest day in history. It was the day of God’s favour. It was the climax of Old Testament prophecy and a revelation of God’s amazing grace. But today is still the day of God’s favour. It is a day in which this identical message is being proclaimed, indeed, it is being proclaimed throughout the entire world. It is a day in which many persons are being drawn to faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord by God’s grace.

I trust that this small book of Christmas messages may be used by God to bring to many people the peace that the incarnation and death of Jesus Christ has made possible.

A word about the title. The publishers are calling this collection *The King Has Come*. It is a good title, because the King of all kings and Lord of all lords has indeed come. That is what Christmas is about. But this will be of no account to you unless the King also comes to you. It is my earnest prayer that he may come to you, perhaps for the first time or in a fresh way, as once again with me you think through these splendid Bible stories.

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