

WHAT A GOOD THING YOU'VE BEEN BORN!

What a wonderful thing to say -

"What a good thing you've been born!"

to another human being! It makes you think!



How often have you had these surprising but gracious words spoken to you? Not often and probably never! These are words most people do not even think of saying to one another.

We have all got faults but perhaps we should consider saying such words to encourage a family member or friend. They certainly are a tremendous lift to one's spirit. What a greeting to give on a Birthday morning, with a hug and a kiss, to a spouse, relative or friend!



Many people today consider their lives so insignificant. Such people often become depressed and even wish they had not been born feeling their lives are of little meaning. But every life has value. Each one has an influence on those around them. A good influence may be considered small but it is really important.

If such folk had not been born, many lonely or sick people would not have been visited, given help and many children would grow up deprived. Remember to look back on your own life and recall the people, with thankfulness, who have given you help, cared for you, made sacrifices for you; and above all given their time.

WHAT A GOOD THING JESUS WAS BORN!

Christians remember the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, celebrated on 25th December each year.

How wonderful that Jesus Christ was born! How wonderful that God, the Father, sent His Son, to be the Saviour of the world!

For to you is born this day in the town of David a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord!

Luke 2: 11



His very name *Emmanuel* means - *God with us.*

Isaiah 7: 14

He was born both God and Man.

Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, King of kings and Lord of lords.

In monarchical government, a prince, as heir apparent, only becomes king on the death of the sovereign. But Jesus was born King! He did not become King later on in His life on the death of the sovereign, as next in line to the throne.



Guided by that brilliant star, the Wise Men from the east asked the question -

Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews?

Matthew 2: 2

Read John 3: 1 – 16 JESUS' WORDS TO NICODEMUS

Unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see the kingdom of God.

Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Marvel not at My telling you, You must all be born again (from above).

John 3: 3, 5, 7

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have everlasting life.

John 3: 16

JESUS' REPLY TO PILATE –

I am a King! This is why I was born and for this I came into the world, to bear witness to the Truth.

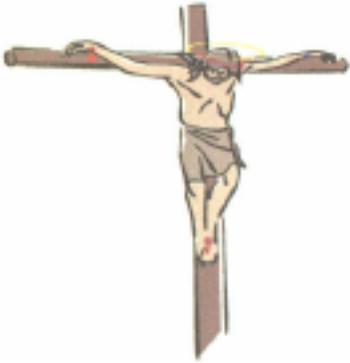
John 18: 37

If Jesus had *not* been born there would be no Gospel of Salvation, the good news of forgiveness of Sin, His righteousness and the gift of eternal life to those who believe.

If Jesus had *not* been born there would be no New Testament. Christians should be ever thankful for the Bible, for both the New Testament (New Covenant) and the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Covenant.

If Jesus had *not* been born there would be no Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught His disciples. There would be no Beatitudes given in the Sermon on the Mount; no Parables and Miracles; no healing and teaching ministry.





THE CRUCIFIXION

If Jesus had *not* been born, there would be no death on that cruel Cross; and the salvation of all those who believe in Him to take away their sins.

THE RESURRECTION

Then, wonderfully, three days later -
the Resurrection!



Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

THE WORDS OF THE ANGEL

He is not here; He has risen, as He said He would.

Matthew 28: 6

WHAT AMAZING JOY!

Jesus is alive for evermore! In Him is the gift of eternal life; believers being *born again* by faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The *new birth* means giving up the self-keeping of our lives into Christ's safe-keeping and direction along His Way for us.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a born again child of God.

1 John 5: 1

What does God's word say about Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus -
and with a kiss?



*Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!
It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.*

Mark 14: 21

Instead, the Son of Man born as the long - awaited and promised Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, did no sin.

The Scriptures record this fact that Christ was without sin several times.

He was guilty of no sin, neither was deceit (guile) found on His lips.

1 Peter 2: 22

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



If Jesus had *not* been born, lived and died, been buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven - what would our world be like today without His gift of the Holy Spirit?

There would be no Gospel accounts of Jesus teaching His disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit.

There would be no words of St. Paul and the other writers of the Epistles or Letters of the New Testament scriptures demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

Yes, Jesus said to Nicodemus -

You must all be born again.

John 3: 7

Believers therefore have two Birthdays -



- * The date of their natural birthday when they were born.
- * The second, when they were born again and received the New Birth.

Prompted by the work of the Holy Spirit, their life then was given to the Lord Jesus Christ in thankfulness for His death on the Cross to take away their sin. Coming to the Lord is a commitment of the *will* to follow Him for the rest of life's journey. Walking with the Lord is a relationship; and not just knowing about Him. This personal decision, whenever and wherever it takes place, is very special and is often marked by Baptism or Confirmation.

Jesus said - *I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

John 14: 6

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

'Happy Birthday' is sung all over the world.
It is the most widely known of all songs.

Did you know there are three verses?

*Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you.
Happy Birthday, dear - - - - -
Happy Birthday to you.*

*May the dear Lord bless you,
May the dear Lord bless you;
From morning till evening,
May the dear Lord bless you.*

*Happy Birthday to you,
One Birthday won't do;
Take Christ as your Saviour
And then you'll have two.*



**WHEN CHRIST IS KING IN YOUR LIFE TO REIGN,
WHAT A GOOD THING YOU'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN.**

THE LIFE AND EXAMPLE OF JESUS

What would our world be like today without the life and example of Jesus? -

Jesus said - *I am the Light of the world.*

John 8: 12

What a loss to the world if Jesus had *never* been born!



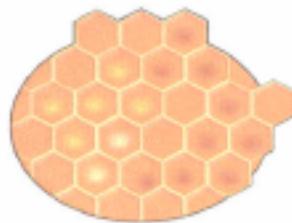
Being *born again* in Christ changes and renews one's life.

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, and to love kindness and mercy and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6: 8

Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body.

Proverbs 16: 24



Jesus said -

I give you a new commandment:

That you should love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 13: 34

Become useful and helpful and kind to one another, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4: 32

Be courteous - that you may inherit a blessing from God.

1 Peter 3: 8, 9

A PRAYER



*HEAVENLY FATHER,
Thank you for Your goodness, LORD.
Hear my praises for Your greatness.*

Please forgive my wrong ways and words.

*Help me to be kind, patient with and friendly to people;
be interested in them; giving praise where it is due.
Help me to tell people about Jesus and His love for
them; to become more like Jesus, being willing to serve
rather than to be served.*

In Jesus' name. Amen.

May people say more often to each other and as an encouragement -

"What a good thing you've been born!"

Dedicated to Emma who said these words.

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