

CONTRASTS and SIMILIARITIES

Between When Jesus Came into the World and When Jesus Left the World.

In Psalms 22 we believe that we have prophetically written thoughts that Jesus had as he was hanging on the cross. In verses 9 and 10 we read that Jesus was thinking of his birth and the experiences back then. This gives us encouragement to consider a number of related aspects between his birth and infancy with his dying experiences.

Psalms 22:9, 10: “Yet thou art He who didst bring me forth from the womb, Thou didst make me trust when upon my mother’s breasts. Upon Thee I was cast from birth, Thou hast been my God from my mother’s womb.”

	Jesus’ Birth and Infancy	Jesus’ Dying Experiences
1	When Jesus came into the world – there was supernatural light: <i>first</i> when the angels appeared unto the shepherds in the field the night of his birth. (Luke 2:9) And <i>later</i> , the Star that guided the Wise Men from the East. (Matthew 2:2, 9, 10) The Scriptures declare: John 9:5: “As long as I am in the world, I am the LIGHT of the world.” John 1:4, 5: “In him was life, and the life was the LIGHT of men. And the LIGHT shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not.”	There was supernatural darkness as Jesus hung upon the cross from 12:00 PM till 3:00 PM. Matthew 27:45, Luke 23:44, 45 (The sun was darkened). Psalms 22:2: “O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not, and in the night season, and am not silent.” (The “daytime” might be the first three hours of his crucifixion, and the “night season” the last three hours).
2	The joy of his human step father and mother.	The sorrow of his heavenly Father and his mother.
3	A small group of awe-struck shepherds, bewildered in joy. Luke 2:8-18.	A small group of grief-stricken disciples, bewildered in sorrow. (Matthew 27:56; Mark 15:40, 41; Luke 23:49) “And all his acquaintances and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.”
4	It was a civil leader (Herod), consulting the Jewish religious leaders trying to kill the child.	It was Jewish religious leaders consulting the civil leaders (Pilate and Herod), to kill the Man.
5	Three wealthy Wise Men provided expensive gifts to welcome him into the world. (Matthew 2:11)	Two wealthy wise men (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus), provided expensive gifts for his burial. (John 19:38-40) Note, <i>The Jewish Encyclopedia</i> and many Bible scholars consider him to be Nicodemus Ben Gurion, who is mentioned in the <i>Talmud</i> as being a wealthy and holy man. Note also that it is only in John’s Gospel that Nicodemus is mentioned at all (three times).
6	The quiet, rather secluded place of a country inn’s stable at the time of national census. (Luke 2:7)	The noisy, boisterous, tumultuous setting of Golgotha at the time of Passover. (Matthew 27:38-44; Luke 23:35-37; John 19:20) “This title then read many of the Jews, for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.” Note that in John’s account there is no mention of the detractors, nor the conversation with the two robbers.

7	The angel's message – "...a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)	The Governor's sign on the cross – "Jesus of Nazareth The King of the Jews." (John 19:19)
8	The multitude of angels praising God. (Luke 2:13, 14)	The multitude of passersby, priests, scribes and elders shouting their disdain and insults at the Son of God. (Matthew 27:39-41; Psalms 22:7, 8, 12, 13)
9	The helpless babe in the manger, the center of attention.	The seemingly helpless Man crucified on the cross. (Psalms 22:14, 17)
10	Jesus came into the world naked, then was wrapped lovingly in swaddling clothes. (Luke 2:7)	Jesus left this world naked, having his clothes brutally stripped off and crudely divided among his executioners. (John 19:23, 24) It was prophesied in Psalms 22:18: "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."
11	In an act of adoration he was given a gift of myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)	In an act of pity he was offered sour wine mingled with myrrh. (Mark 15:23) And they wound his corpse in linen and myrrh. (John 19:39, 40)
12	As it seemed so improbable that the future Messiah King would be born in such humble, lowly fashion.	So too, it seemed so improbable that the Messiah King would be slain in such humiliating fashion. Hebrews 12:2: "...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding the shame...."
13	As the baby cried coming into this world (as babies do).	The dying Man cried aloud as he was departing this world. (Matthew 27:46, 50)
14	At his birth he was hailed as God's gift to the world. (II Corinthians 9:15)	At his death he was accused of being disowned by God. Matthew 27:43: "He trusted in God, let Him deliver him now, if He will have him, for he said I am the Son of God."
15	He was dedicated in God's Temple. (Luke 2:22) "And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord."	At his death, God abandoned His Temple, rending the veil in twain from top to bottom. (Matthew 27:51)
16	He was born in the city of David (Bethlehem), which lies on a little hill.	He was slain outside of the city of David (Jerusalem), at a little hillock of Mt. Moriah.
17	Though Jesus was raised in Nazareth of Galilee in the north,	...yet he came into the world at Bethlehem, only 6 miles from where he left this world.
18	When Jesus was just a baby and could not provide for his mother, God provided Joseph.	When Jesus was dying and could no longer provide for his mother, he provided John. (John 19:26, 27)
19	At Jesus dedication, Simeon prophesied that a "sword would pierce [Mary's] soul." (Luke 2:35)	At his crucifixion the prophesied sword, DID pierce her soul.
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