

A Savior Is Born!

Luke 2

December 13, 2020

Introduction: The Account of Jesus' Birth (1-7).

1. This is a historical event (1-2).
 - a. Caesar Augustus (Pax Romana; Censuses; Taxes)
 - b. Cyrenius, Governor of Syria
2. Joseph and Mary were both of the house of David, so they had to return to Bethlehem to be taxed (3-5).
 - a. God used this taxing so that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem in fulfillment of prophecy (Mic. 5:2).
 - b. Joseph used this taxing as an opportunity to relocate to Bethlehem to escape the persecution they were likely receiving in Nazareth.
 - i. Joseph was not required to bring Mary with him.
 - ii. Joseph knew that Mary and the baby would be outcasts in Nazareth, so he likely moved to Bethlehem so that the baby could be born there.
 - c. Joseph and Mary traveled 90 miles in about 3 days even though Mary was great with child.
3. There was no room in the inn, so Mary gave birth in a stable, wrapped him, and laid him in a manger (6-7).
 - a. There is no record of Mary and Joseph having any assistance whatsoever.
 - b. They were completely alone.
4. Jesus, the Bread of Life, was born in Bethlehem, House of Bread.

Message: The Proclamation of Jesus Birth (8-11a)

1. The Good News was proclaimed for all, especially sinners (8-10).
 - a. Universal: God sent the angels to shepherds to show the world that Jesus came to save **all**, even shepherds!
 - i. The countryside surrounding Jerusalem was filled with sheep destined for sacrifice in the temple
 - ii. Shepherds were outcasts of society because their duties made it impossible to keep the ceremonial laws of the Jews; they were uneducated; they were very poor.
 - iii. They were so despised that their eye-witness accounts to a crime were inadmissible in court!
 - iv. Shepherds were not church-goers!
 - v. "God so loved the world that He gave His only...Son, that whosoever believeth in Him..." (Jn 3:16).
 - vi. "For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mt 9:13; Mk 2:17; Lk 5:32).
 - b. Personal: "For unto you..." (11a)
 - i. Jesus cares for the one lost sheep (Luke 15:4-10).
 - ii. Jesus demonstrated His care for the individual over and over (Nicodemus, Samaritan Woman, the Nobleman's Son, the man raised on the Sabbath, the woman caught in adultery, the blind man, the raising of Lazarus, the thief on the cross, Mary at the tomb, Doubting Thomas, Peter's restoration).
2. The Good News is a Person, JESUS (11b-14).
 - a. Jesus Is the Savior (11).
 - i. This implies that we need a Savior!
 - ii. We need a Savior from sin (Romans 3:10, 23).
 - iii. We need a Savior from God's wrath and condemnation (John 3:16-18).
 - b. Jesus Is Fully Man and fully God "born this day...a Saviour which is Christ the Lord."
 - i. Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the LORD Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (cf. Mt. 1:23 "God with Us").
 - ii. Isa. 9:6 "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."
 - iii. He had to be fully human to bear the sins of humanity and suffer the infinite separation from God that we deserve to suffer.
 - iv. He had to be God to have merit before a holy God
 - c. Jesus is the Peacemaker between us and God, and the only means of God's good will (13-14).
 - i. Whether or not you receive favor from God and peace with God depends on your response.

3. The Good News Requires a Response (15-20).
 - a. The Response of Faith – The shepherds believed the good news by faith (15-16a).
 - i. “Let us now go **even unto Bethlehem**” implies a distance.
 - ii. “See this thing which **is** come to pass” reveals their faith in the angel’s message.
 - iii. “which the **Lord** hath made known unto us” reveals the understanding of that message.
 - b. The Reward of Faith – The shepherds’ faith was rewarded (16b).
 - i. Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
 - ii. John 3:16 “whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”
 - c. The Responsibility of Faith – The shepherds went everywhere sharing the good news (17-20).
 - i. They shared the good news with their countrymen (17-18).
 1. Their witness magnified the gospel – a Savior is born unto you for all people!
 - ii. They shared the good news to Mary, likely strengthening her faith (19).
 - d. The Rejoicing of Faith – The shepherds experienced the great joy of the good news (20; cf. 10).
 - i. They experienced great joy in knowing the Savior personally (cf. 10).
 1. Before they met the Savior, they were in great fear.
 2. After they met the Savior, they had great joy and peace.
 - ii. They glorified and praised God for all they had heard (faith in the Word) and seen (faith rewarded).

Conclusion:

1. Have you admitted your need for a Savior?
 - a. Do you see that you are a sinner?
 - b. Do you see that as a sinner, you are already condemned before God?
 - c. Do you see that Jesus was born for you, to save you from the wrath of God so that you could experience the love of God?
 - d. Do you see that you, like the shepherds, have nothing to offer God?
2. In order for Jesus to be your Savior, you must admit to Him your need and trust Him to save you in simple faith, nothing more, and nothing less.

<p>The Account of Jesus Birth (1-7):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a historical event! Caesar Augustus (Pax Romana; Taxes) Cyrenius, governor of Syria 2. Joseph and Mary were both of the house of David, Royalty. 3. They traveled alone (4-5 day Journey) very likely relocating in Bethlehem. 4. Jesus, the Bread of Life, was born in Bethlehem (House of Bread) fulfilling prophecy (Micah 5:2). 5. There was no room in the inn due to the census crowds, and it seems that Mary and Joseph likely delivered the baby without any assistance. 	<p>Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.</p> <p>Luke 2:2 (<i>And</i> this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)</p> <p>Luke 2:3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.</p> <p>Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)</p> <p>Luke 2:5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.</p> <p>Luke 2:6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.</p> <p>Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.</p>
<p>The Proclamation of Jesus Birth (8-14)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The countryside surrounding Jerusalem was filled with sheep destined for sacrifice in the temple. 2. Shepherds were outcasts of society because their duties made it impossible to keep the ceremonial laws of the Jews. They were so despised that their eye-witness accounts were inadmissible. 3. The Gospel "Good Tidings" (9-11); Great Joy; to ALL people. 	<p>Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.</p> <p>Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.</p> <p>Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.</p> <p>Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.</p> <p>Luke 2:12 And this <i>shall be</i> a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.</p> <p>Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,</p> <p>Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.</p>
<p>The Verification of Jesus Birth (15-20)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They believed the gospel (15). "which the Lord hath made known" 2. They obeyed the gospel (16). 3. They published the gospel (17). 4. They praised God for the reality of the gospel "what they had heard (faith) and seen (faith rewarded)." 	<p>Luke 2:15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.</p> <p>Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.</p> <p>Luke 2:17 And when they had seen <i>it</i>, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.</p> <p>Luke 2:18 And all they that heard <i>it</i> wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.</p> <p>Luke 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered <i>them</i> in her heart.</p> <p>Luke 2:20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.</p>