

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. You cannot study the Life of Christ...without studying the birth of Christ...tonight we look at verses we are very familiar with.

II. THE TIME OF JESUS' BIRTH-

- a. The gospel writer Luke records the birth of Jesus...by first putting it on the calendar.
- b. *Luke 2:1-2 (NKJV) "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria."*
- c. Luke says that Jesus was born when Caesar Augustus was the the emperor of Rome...Augustus was emperor of Rome from 31BC to 14AD.
- d. Further Luke says that the birth of Jesus took place when Augustus had issued a royal decree...that a census should be taken of the entire Roman Empire.
- e. Such a census would be used for taxation...for military purposes...and as a demonstration of Rome's control over its empire.
- f. Luke says that this census occurred in Palestine...when a man by the name of Quirinius was governor of Syria...which included Galilee and Judea.
- g. Most historians believe that Jesus was probably born ... between 6 and 4 BC...the first two verses of Luke 2...tells us two very important things:
 - i. The birth of Jesus is not fiction and it is not a fable...it is a historical fact.
 - ii. God is in control of human history...the Hand of God was behind the decree of Caesar Augustus...and because of it Jesus was born in the very

town prophesied for His birth in the Old Testament (Micah 5:2)...even though his earthly parents did not live there.

III. THE PLACE OF JESUS' BIRTH-

- a. *Luke 2:3-7 (NKJV) "So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."*
- b. After Luke puts the birth of Jesus on the calendar...he puts it on the map.
- c. Because Joseph was a descendant of David...he was required to go to David's hometown of Bethlehem for the census.
- d. Probably realizing that God was using the census to maneuver them to the prophesized birthplace of the Messiah...Mary went with Joseph.
- e. Not long after Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem...Luke says Mary gave birth to Jesus her "firstborn Son."
- f. Jesus was not born in a warm and comfortable home...Mary was not surrounded by loving and caring attendants when she gave birth.
- g. Because of the census every available room in Bethlehem was filled...apparently Jesus was born in a stable...and apparently Mary was alone except for Joseph ... because the Bible says she brought forth her firstborn Son...she wrapped Him in swaddling cloths ...and she laid Him in a manger.

- h. The greatest miracle in the history of the world...the eternal Son of God being born as a man...happened in a dark and dirty stable...in an obscure village in Judea...everything about Jesus' birth pointed to obscurity, poverty, and rejection.
- i. The King of Kings was born into humble and poor circumstances...born as a human...born to serve...born to die.
- j. Two more things about verses 3-7:
 - i. The Bible says that Jesus was Mary's "firstborn" Son...after the birth of Jesus...Joseph and Mary had other sons and daughters together...*Matthew 13:55-56 (NKJV) "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us?"*
 - ii. Today, the hearts of many are like the rooms of Bethlehem...too crowded for Jesus...too crowded with sin...too crowded with worldly cares, pleasures, prizes and pursuits...too crowded with worldly wisdom...so much so that they have no room for the Savior in their lives.

IV. THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS' BIRTH-

- a. *Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV) "Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

- b. Outside the city of Bethlehem...some shepherds were watching over their flocks ...when suddenly an angel appeared to them with the stunning announcement of the birth of Jesus.
- c. First, notice the character of the announcement...the angel announced "good tidings of great joy"...a joyous occasion had occurred...the Savior of the world had been born...there is no joy like knowing Jesus and the joy of salvation.
- d. Second, notice the scope of the announcement...the announcement was not just for the shepherds...it was for "all the people"...Jesus is the "Savior of the world" ... for all races, colors, classes and genders of people...no matter who you are or what you have done...Jesus will save you if you will trust Him.
- e. Third, notice the substance of the announcement...the angel said that Jesus was "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"...Jesus is "Savior" because He alone can save man from sin...Jesus is the "Christ" the anointed One...because God anointed Him to be the Healer and Savior of all mankind...Jesus is "Lord" because He is the ruler of all mankind...Jesus will save you if you surrender your life to Him.
- f. Soon the angelic messenger...was joined by a multitude of other angels who offered praise to God...for sending a Savior...by whom we can have peace with God...you will never know peace until you know Jesus.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. What did the shepherds do when they heard this revelation from God?... did they yawn with indifference?...did they continue on with their work?...did they doubt what they had heard?
- b. The Bible says they left immediately...and came with haste to Bethlehem to see the Savior.
- c. How many times have you heard the same message that the shepherds heard?... how many times have you heard this same good news?...what have you done with

it?...if you are serious and sincere about your salvation you will make haste today to find the Savior.

- d. Where can Jesus be found today?... *Romans 10:8-13 (NKJV)* “...the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."...for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- e. When the shepherds found Jesus they worshipped Him...and they proclaimed Him...those who find Jesus will worship Him and proclaim Him...are you?