

— Luke 2.1-20 —
Luke's Advent of Christ 5
The Birth of Jesus

◆ Luke 2.1 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. 3 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.

► The opening of Luke 2 tells us how Jesus came to be born in _____ instead of Nazareth, just as the prophet Micah had said.

Micah 5.2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

– "Ephrathah" was the area around Bethlehem (1Sam 17.12).

► In the providence of God, it was the decree of Caesar Augustus for tax purposes that would bring this to pass. That God would incorporate this kind of historical detail into his divine plan, and that Luke would include it in his advent account, distinguishes the birth of Jesus from all the various _____ deities of ancient literature, who never were born or grew up in an actual historical _____. Jesus did, because he came to be the real _____ of real _____ in the real _____.

► Caesar Augustus is one of the most famous _____ of all time, and perhaps *the* most powerful in the post-flood world up to that time. Originally called _____, he became the first to be declared _____ of the Roman empire. He reigned from _____ BC to _____ AD. Under his leadership was born the famous period known as the *Pax Romana*, the _____ of Rome.

► Bethlehem was about _____ miles south of Jerusalem, and about _____ miles south of Nazareth, but it was about _____ feet in elevation compared to _____ feet for Nazareth, so Joseph "went _____ from Galilee" (4).

◆ 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.

► We tend to have several misconceptions about what Luke is telling us:

1) We assume Joseph and Mary are traveling at the tail end of her pregnancy, when it is quite possible or even likely that they traveled in the _____ of her pregnancy.

2) We misunderstand where Joseph and Mary were staying due to the English word "inn." The Greek word means "_____ room." Homes of that day typically housed the main family on the ground floor, which would have been separated by a wall from a barn-like area for domestic _____, all part of the same structure.

3) "Swaddling cloths" is not there in the Greek. It says that Mary "swaddled Him" – she _____ Him up cozy.

◆ 8 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!"

► Once again, we have the command to not be _____.
The Gr. word for "good tidings" is the word for _____,
which had a well known usage in that day, for it was
proclaimed whenever a new _____ ascended
to the _____, for he was _____,
the embodiment of the genius and blessing of _____,
the one whose _____ all were to call upon, and the
one who brought _____ and _____ to
the world.

Acts 17.6 "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too 7 ... acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus."

Mat 2.16 Then Herod ... sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under

Mat 4.23 Jesus went about all Galilee ... preaching the gospel of the kingdom

► "On earth peace, goodwill toward men" would be better translated, "on earth peace among men with whom God is _____," that is, those who believe the gospel of _____.

Jn 3.17 "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light"

Mal 3.1 "[T]he Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight ... 2 But who can endure the day of His coming? ... For He is like a refiner's fire ... 3 ... He will purify the sons of Levi,

and purge them as gold and silver ... 4.1 ... And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble ... 2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings"

◆ 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

► God brought testimony to Jesus from the shepherds, whose testimony was not received in Roman _____, for one could work as a shepherd pretty much regardless of one's past. The point is not that God sent the gospel to, and received testimony from, the poor vs the rich and powerful, but that God sent the gospel to _____ peoples and received testimony from _____ who believed.

Vs 10 "I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

◆ 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

► Let this be our application: Let us glorify and praise God for all the things we have seen and heard from the _____ of God, in His work in our _____, and in our midst as a _____.