

— Luke 2.1-20 —
Luke's Advent of Christ 4
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 our passage tells us how Jesus came to be born in _____ instead of Nazareth.

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."

* **What is** different from the stories of pagan deities?

* **Who was** Caesar Augustus?

* **Where was** Bethlehem?

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.

* **When did** Joseph and Mary likely arrive?

* **Where were** Joseph and Mary staying?

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!"

* **Another word** for "good tidings" is _____, which to Romans meant what?

* **In the Roman** empire, who was "lord," and who brought "grace and peace" 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 ...

* **Vs 14 would** be better translated: "On earth peace toward men with whom God is well _____."

* **How does** Malachi help us understand what that means?

Mal 3.1 ... "And the 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 ..."

Luke 3.8 "... bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."

1John 1.8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

* **What is** remarkable about the shepherds testifying, and the people receiving their testimony?

* **Was the** message of Christ's birth sent to only one class of people?

Mat 2.1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem ... behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

* **Application:** When Christ draws near by the Spirit, making his presence palpable, it results in _____ and _____.

Rev 2.17 ... "To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna"

Acts 3.19 ... that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Psalms 126.1 When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing."

Psalms 107.35 He turns a wilderness into pools of water, And dry land into watersprings.

Psalms 133.3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

* **If Christ** made his presence known among us, what would result among us?

1) Great _____.

Lk 1.65 Then fear came on all who dwelt around them ...

Luke 7.16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

2) Great _____ of actual sin, and release from false _____.

Mat 3.5 Then ... all Judea ... went out to him 6 and were baptized ... in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

3) Great awareness of all God has done to _____ us.

Eph 2.4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

4) A great _____ to God with our whole selves.

Rom 12.1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

5) We would be characterized by _____, _____, and _____.

Eph 5.18 ... be filled with the Spirit, ... 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Neh 8.10 ... "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ... 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

* **What should** we pray for this next year?