

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, December 25, 2022, 10:00 AM

Message Series: Christmas

Week 1– The Story of the Christ of the Redeemed: The Birth, the Angels, and the Shepherds

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-20

Brief Preview:

Luke, a gentile physician, builds his gospel narrative around a historical, chronological presentation of Jesus' birth. Luke presents the Advent of Jesus in Luke 1 and 2 as a baby conceived and born of a virgin. Luke also presented Jesus as the Son of Man who came to seek and save sinful humankind.

Context:

History confirms that people returned to their ancestral homes to be registered for the census. It shows God is in control of our world; it shows Jesus came into real-time and space of history; the story of our Savior Jesus Christ is not a myth; it's true! Luke anchors this story in real time and space of history: What can we say about his accounts regarding Jesus' birth?

Outline:

- I. Introduction (Luke 2:1-3)
 - A. A Historical figure – Caesar Augustus
 - B. Luke's account is rooted in history.

- II. The Facts About the Birth of Jesus
 - A. Is this Messiah? (Luke 2:4-5)
 - i. Born along the line of David
 - ii. Born to out-of-wedlock parents

 - B. The Humiliation of Christ (Luke 2:6-7)
 - i. Born in a stable or Cave?
 - ii. The Son of God wrapped around by swaddling clothes
 - iii. Feeding trough/a manger

 - C. The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-12)

 - D. Practical Implications:
 - i. What do shepherds teach us in this Christmas story?
 - ii. God demonstrates his acceptance of us

- III. The Angel and the Heavenly Hosts (Luke 2:8-14)

- IV. Conclusion:
 - A. After the angels left, the shepherds spread the great news; they returned praising and glorifying God (2:15-20)
 - B. Some practical implications (take-home lessons) for us if we begin to lose interest:
 - i. We need to return to God in His Temple/in His Church to gain the flame
 - ii. We must honestly admit where we are and ask him to open our eyes and warm our hearts

Questions and Answers (Refer to Luke 2:1-20, NIV for answers)

1. In those days, who issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman Empire? (v. 1)

- A. Caesar Augustus B. Julius Caesar C. Both answers are correct. D. Both answers need to be corrected.
2. Where did Joseph go? Why? (v.3-5)
- A. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth to Galilee to Judea to Bethlehem, the town of David.
- B. Because he belonged to the house and line of David
- C. He went there to register with Mary, and she was pledged to him and was expecting a child
- D. All the above answer choices are correct
3. While they were there when the time came for the baby, her firstborn, a son. Why did she wrap him in a manger? (v.6-7)
- A. Because there was no guest room available for them
- B. They wanted the baby to be born in a cave or a stable C. Both answers are correct. D. Both answers are incorrect
4. When an angel of the Lord appeared to them: (Refer to Luke 2:8-12) – Mark True (T) or False (F)
- A. There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. T F
- B. The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. T F
- C. But the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." T F
- D. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. T F
- E. "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" T F
5. Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the Angel, praising God. What were they saying? (Refer to Luke 2:13-14)
- A. "Glory to God in the highest heaven" B. "and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."
- B. Both of the above are correct.
6. When the angels had left the shepherds and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." What did they do after? (v. 15-20).
- A. They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger.
- B. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.
- C. And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them, but Mary treasured up all the things and pondered them in her heart.
- D. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just what they had been told.
- E. All answers are correct.
7. What are the take-home lessons?
- A. The birth of Jesus is not a myth; it's true. B. We are called to spread the Good News C. If we slack and begin to lose our passion for sharing the Good News, we should return to Church, honestly admit where we are, and ask God to open our eyes and warm our hearts.
- B. Praise and glorify God in the highest heaven and on earth because the peace of God has come to those on whom His favor rests
- C. All are correct