

Luke 2:1-20

Christmas According to Luke: God With Us! (Immanuel)

12/3 Christmas According to Luke

Events the Evening of the Birth of Jesus

12/10 Christmas According to Matthew

Events about a Year After the Birth of Jesus

12/17 Christmas According to John

Truths That Directly Relate to the Birth of Jesus

The Context of Luke 2:1-20

Announcement of the Coming Birth of John the Baptist (1:5-25)

Announcement of the Coming Birth of Jesus the Christ (1:26-56)

The Actual Birth of the John the Baptist (1:57-80)

The Actual Birth of Jesus the Christ (2:1-20)

The Adoration of Jesus as an Infant (2:21-39)

The Advancement of Jesus as a Young Boy (2:40-52)

The Baptism of Jesus-God the Father Declares His Son's Righteousness (3:1-38)

The Temptation of Jesus-God the Son Demonstrates His Righteousness (4:1-13)

The Content of Luke 2:1-20

The Historical Background of the Birth of Jesus v1-5

Real People: Caesar Augustus/Octavian, Governor Quirinius, Joseph and Mary

Real Places: Roman occupied Israel, the city of Nazareth in Galilee (northern Israel) and the city of Bethlehem in Judea (southern Israel)

The Rest of the Story: Joseph and Mary were engaged when it was revealed to them that Mary (a virgin) was supernaturally pregnant with the Promised Messiah/Savior-THIS is just as much a historical fact as the historical references to the people/cities above.

The “Normal/Usual” Birth of Jesus in an Unusual Place v6-7

The “Virgin Birth” was preceded nine months earlier by the Virgin Conception, the actual birth was “normal/usual” despite being set in an unusual maternity ward.

Mary gave birth to her firstborn (prototokos-first in time and/or rank) son...

...which implies future children including sons conceived in the “old fashioned” way.

The Messiah was prophesied to be a human being (not an angel or an alien), a male (not a female), a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob....Judah....David/Solomon...

...who would be born in the little town of Bethlehem (the City of David).

Mary wrapped the newborn Jesus in cloths because 1: The closest 24 hour Wal-Mart was more than six miles away in Jerusalem and 2: because all they had had their disposal was some old blankets/pieces of cloth 3: the bottom line is we have a newborn baby in a cattle trough in Bethlehem wrapped up like a dead man.

A Supernatural Birth Announcement Given to an Unusual Audience v8-14

Shepherds were an unusual audience to be the first witnesses of God With Us because their occupation while very important was not very prestigious (think modern “Garbage Men” what they do is very important/necessary and they work very hard...but their efforts are not celebrated and their occupation has a very low status-which is not necessarily right/good but it is what it is). THE POINT: If Luke were makin’ all of this up...he would NOT have chosen these guys to be the first in line to celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

AND YET: many/most of the sheep these shepherds were watching over would eventually be used as symbols of the SAS of Jesus-the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. AND YET2: God is not impressed by human/cultural social hierarchies- the “beautiful people” according to People Magazine/Entertainment Tonight are no more beautiful or special than plain looking people like the current pastor of TBF and one of his dear friends the guy who owns/operates a T-Shirt Shop in downtown Duncan.

The Unusual Audience Members Overjoyed at the News of the Birth of Their Messiah Rushed to See Him and Afterward Told Others v15-18

Keeping a couple of Debbie Downers to watch the sheep for them, there rest of the guys “came in a hurry” to see the baby Jesus (contrast this to King Herod the Great in Matthew 2 and all of the religious leaders in Jerusalem who were too important/too busy to come in person to see and worship the baby Messiah.

The Immediate Aftermath v19-20

1: Mary-the first Christian theologian treasured and pondered all the things that had happened to bring Jesus into the world-(going back to at least Luke 1:26)

2: The Shepherds-the first Christian workin' men...went back to work praising God for allowing them the privilege of seeing their newborn Messiah/Savior (they beat Simeon and Anna to the punch so to speak (1:21-38).

Take This To Heart

Christmas According to Luke: God With Us! (Immanuel)

IOWs: In Jesus God Directly Entered Human History

“Luke’s Christmas” Emphasizes the Historical Reality of the Birth/Life of Jesus Consistent with the Real “Real Meaning” of Christmas:

The Babe in That Manger Was/Is the God-Man-Savior

Jesus Was Born to Die as a Substitutionary Atoning Sacrifice for the Sins of the World (John 1:35; 1 John 2:1-2)

As Our Lord Jesus Was Sent by God the Father...So Our Savior Calls Us to Go Into the World to Love People as His Ambassadors. Our Message Reduces

Down to: 1: Believe in Jesus (Receive Him in Faith)

2; Abide in Jesus (Follow Him in Faithfulness)