

Dec. 14, 2014

## Who is This Baby Jesus? Luke 2:4-14

### All Stand and Read Scripture

Luke 2:4-14 (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> **for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** <sup>12</sup> This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

### Prayer

#### INTRODUCTION:

Many prophecies in the Old Testament proclaimed the birth of Christ, the Messiah. It was an event that had been planned by God even before creation. He knew that man was going to sin and would need a savior. This morning we are going to talk about the baby in the manger named Jesus.

Who was He?

What was He doing?

Why did He need to come to earth to live among men?

The book of Luke records the most details concerning the birth of Jesus.

This passage of scripture covers a whole multitude of subjects.

- An Angel Proclaims a Birth.
- The Birth of a Savior
- The Arrival of Our Lord, Who is the long awaited Messiah.
- Glory of the Lord Shining Around the Shepherds.
- Angels Glorifying God.

700 Years before this event, Micah had prophesied that Christ would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-5 (NASB)

2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.  
His goings forth are from long ago,  
From the days of eternity.”

3 Therefore He will give them up until the time  
When she who is in labor has borne a child.  
Then the remainder of His brethren  
Will return to the sons of Israel.

4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock  
In the strength of the Lord,  
In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.  
And they will remain,  
Because at that time He will be great  
To the ends of the earth.

5 This One will be our peace.

When God’s Word prophesied that Jesus would be born in the small obscure town of Bethlehem, you could rest assured it would, because God’s Word is always true and its prophesies are always fulfilled.

We do not know from the scriptures whether Mary and Joseph knew of the prophesy in Micah 5:2 that was being fulfilled. There is no indication that they prearranged the trip to Bethlehem. It would seem that if they did, they would make sure that they would get there early so they would have a place for Mary being she was in advanced pregnancy.

Mary would not want to be away from family and the comforts of their own home. Mary and Joseph certainly would not want to travel 85 or 90 miles sometimes walking and sometimes riding the back of a donkey. Just being nine months pregnant and doing nothing would be enough. They certainly would

not want to be in a manger in a strange town because of a census demanded by the Roman government. They certainly would not want to be in a half public stable in the open air to give birth to a new child. They would have not chosen to have to lay the new child in a feed trough filled with hay.

Regardless of whether Mary and Joseph knew if Jesus was supposed to be born in Bethlehem or not, the reason that they were there is because God planned to have them there. The way that God orchestrated the plan to have them there had nothing to do with them really. It had nothing to do with anyone who KNEW about the Messiah. It had nothing to do with anyone who CARED about the Messiah. It frankly had nothing to do with anyone who knew about the prophet Micah or knew the prophecies of the Old Testament. It was all orchestrated by, of all people, Caesar Augustus.

Caesar Augustus was the supreme ruler of the Roman Empire. It was Caesar Augusta who did not KNOW about the Messiah and didn't CARE that actually set up the events to cause Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. He required a census to be taken for the purpose of registering everyone in the Roman Empire with a view toward taxation. So he made a decree, according to Luke 1:1 that everyone had to go to their ancestral land.

I find it amazing that God can just use natural events as they occur by human will to accomplish His own will. He did not stop what was natural and insert something super natural. What is amazing is that He can take natural events letting man use his own will to do as they choose and cause who He wants, what He wants, where He wants, and when He wants to effect exactly His will.

**That is amazing!**

This morning, I would like to look at three things that describe **WHO This Baby Jesus Is.**

- 1. The Baby Jesus is God and Our Creator.**
- 2. The Baby Jesus Is Life and the Light of the World**
- 3. The Baby Jesus is the Messiah, Our Savior**

## **BODY:**

### **I. The Baby Jesus is God and Our Creator**

#### **John 1:1-2 (NASB)**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God.

Verse 1 sounds a lot like the beginning of Genesis.

#### **Genesis 1:1 (NASB)**

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 is talking about the beginning of God's creation, the beginning of time. John 1:1-2 is much more than that.

The reason this verse is written here is to point out that:

before time began,  
before Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem,  
even before Genesis 1:1 when He created the heavens and the earth,  
God existed and Jesus existed. It points to the eternal existence of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is referred to as the Word. The Bible contains the Word of God. We do not worship the Bible, but we know that it contains the Word of God and through our study of it, we can know how to live our lives for God.

An interesting thing about this passage is it says Jesus "**was God**" which would indicate that He has the **same characteristics** as God and was **absolutely identical**, but, it also says Jesus "**was with God**" which indicates that He was somehow also a **separate entity** from God.

From a human perspective, you cannot be absolutely the same and also be "**with**" God.

You want me to explain that to you? **I can't**. It really does defy human explanation. That doesn't mean you should not meditate a lot on it. The idea of the trinity is that God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one, living eternally. They are a unity, yet they are individual, yet they are one.

Is it beyond my comprehension? Yes!

Is it worthy of my thought, praise, worship, and study of scripture? Absolutely! It does not mean that I will fully comprehend it, but it is still true and it deserves me meditating on it and studying about it.

The fact that men cannot comprehend it says a lot, doesn't it? It suggests how much above and beyond God is to mankind, but yet He makes Himself available to us through His written Word.

### **John 1:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

When we think of Jesus and His birth in a manger, we tend to think of His ministry on earth. We often do not tend to think of Him as the creator of all things. But that is exactly what He is. Jesus was a member of the trinity in charge of creating. He created by speaking words with authority and creation appeared. Not only did He create, but He also was in charge of **sustaining creation**.

### **Colossians 1:16-18 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

This is a powerful statement. Everything that exists was created by Christ for Christ and He is the sustainer of creation. Mankind was created because “The Son” spoke the Word with authority and mankind was created. It says He was **“before all things”** which, again, talks of His preexistence or eternal nature and it says that He will be preeminent. Everything that is created is to bring glory to Christ.

What a powerful statement! It is much more than just a cute little baby in a manger. It gives perspective on **Who** this baby is!

## **II. The Baby Jesus Is Life and the Light of the World**

Christmas is much more than a holiday of symbols such as Christmas trees, lights, and merry Christmas signs in stores. It is about a baby who has the power to speak physical life and speak spiritual life.

### **John 1:4 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

We know in Him was physical life because He spoke and life was created. In Genesis He brought LIGHT first and then He brought LIFE. We know here that

He brings light and life. The light would have to come first in order to have illumination. Jesus does not only bring **physical** life, but **spiritual** life. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were told **not to eat of the tree of good and evil for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die**. The devil comes and tempts them and they eat. At that point they did not immediately die, but **physical death** started at that point. Their bodies started deteriorating with decay and disease and eventually caused them death. **Spiritual death** started on the spot. God's eminent and personal relationship was taken away from them.

I have got **physical life** standing here, but my **spiritual life**, because of sin, needs to be fixed. Just as **light was needed and created for physical life**, I need **light now** to bring about **spiritual life**. The problem with spiritual life is that it follows us beyond the grave. If we just had physical death to worry about, it would be over when we die. Spiritual death is an eternal problem. It must be fixed and solved now because one day it will be unfixable and unsolvable. So, I have to have a solution. John is looking back to the fall of man and pointing out what needed to be fixed. Now we want to get beyond eternity past and consider what happens when Christ did come to earth.

### **John 1:5 (NASB)**

**<sup>5</sup>The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

A better word for comprehend might be that the darkness could not stop the light. It might be true that without enlightenment, we might not understand the light, but the main point is that Jesus came and He shone into the darkness and the darkness could not do anything about it. When Jesus said "Let there be light", the darkness did not have the ability to stop it or push it back.

### **John 1:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**

The word **true** is used here to point out that Jesus is the only light. He is the only way to salvation. We cannot come up with an alternate way to be saved. We have the advantage of prophecies that told what was to happen so we could know that the Bible is the true Word of God. We are told that Christ came for all men, Jew and Gentile. The Jews had trouble with this because they felt that they were the chosen people and Gentiles were not part of God's plan. Christ is the **ONLY light** that can create a **spiritual birth** and fix a **spiritual life**.

### **John 1:10-11 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Isn't it hard to believe that the Creator of the world could to earth and the world would not recognize Him or accept Him?

Have you ever thought, if God would show me a sign, it would be much easier to believe in Him? Jesus worked miracles (raising from the dead, healing the sick, giving eyesight to the blind, rebuking nature, multiplying food, and driving out demons) and yet, despite all of that, the world rejected Him. We took a sinless man and crucified Him on a cross.

He even came to His own (the Jews) who was studying the scripture and was looking for the Messiah and even they rejected Him.

Humanity has proven that even the most obvious signs are not enough for sinful man.

### **III. The Baby Jesus is the Messiah, Our Savior**

You would think that was the end of the story wouldn't you? He came and we rejected Him. We asked Him to give us signs and He did. We asked Him to fulfill all of the prophecies and He did. Then we rejected Him and crucified Him. You would think He would just wrap up the world and throw it away and start on another creation.

But what did He do?

### **John 1:12-13 (NASB)**

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

You might ask, If the world did not know Him and the Jews did not receive Him. Who did receive Him? This scripture is saying that those who believed in His name received Him. When it says we were given the **“right”** to become children of God, it is saying that were given the power or authority or the means was made available for us to become a child of God.

Verse 13 talks about our inability and God's ability to make us children of God. We cannot be saved based on our physical birth or our Jewish ancestry. We must have a spiritual birth, not physically of blood, but of God.

## **CONCLUSION:**

The good news is that Christ's death on the cross provided a way for us to have our sins forgiven. He died on the cross for our sins. Once we have sincerely asked for forgiveness of our sins, Christ has provided the way for our spiritual life to be made whole, without sin. Christ took the wrath that God should put on all sinners for our sins and put it on Jesus Christ. Jesus paid the penalty and rose from the dead proving that He had the power to save sinners like us. We must believe in God's son and obey His commands to become children of God.

When we think of Christmas and the birth of Christ, we must go beyond the manger and understand the reason Christ became man and lived among us.

As the angels proclaimed in Luke **for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior? This is your opportunity this morning to let Christ's death on the cross cleanse you of your sins and make you righteous with God.

### **The Family of God**

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.