

The Basics of Christianity

An Intro to the Christmas Season

Luke 2:4-14

INTRODUCTION:

Luke 2:4-14 (NASB95)

Micah 5:2-5 (NASB95)

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Watch 2021 Show Me Christian Youth Home Christmas Video. (15 minutes).

INTRODUCTION:

This morning we are continuing with "The Basics of Christianity" series. The purpose of this series is to make us more effective in our witness to those outside the church who still need to know about the Gospel. In the time that we have remaining, I would like to present to you an introduction to the Christmas season.

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

Through all of the events that took place we can see how God orchestrated them all to happen in order to accomplish His plan and fulfill prophecy in order that we could know that Jesus was indeed the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Luke 2:4-14 (NASB95)

⁴ 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, ⁵ in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶ While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷ 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.

⁸ In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ 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; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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

Prayer

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 let us look at 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?

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

Micah 5:2-5 (NASB95)

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 the Assyrian invades our land, When he tramples on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.

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 prophecies are always fulfilled.

We do not know from the scriptures whether Mary and Joseph knew of the prophecy 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 with Mary being nine months pregnant. They certainly would not want to be in a manger in a strange town and in a half public stable in the open air to give birth to a new child. They would not have chosen to have to lay the new child in a feed trough filled with hay. But because of a census demanded by the Roman government they were obligated to make the trip.

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. He would not have **known** about the Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament and frankly would not **care**. But his actions, by the will of God, actually set up the events that would 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 use natural events allowing man to use his own will to accomplish His own purposes.

That is amazing!

In the next couple of weeks we will look at this baby Jesus and discover **Who** He was and **why** He came to earth to live among us.

Go Tell It On the Mountain.