

## LUKE 2

### The Birth of Jesus Christ: Savior, Christ & Lord

**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.

- It is important to realize that Caesar was in charge of the politics of almost the entire world...But, GOD was in charge of Caesar and GOD chose where His Son would be born... NOT Caesar.
- Caesar's ego was so big they tried many different titles for his name: King, Ruler, Dictator... None of them were good enough for Caesar. They finally settled on Augustus... They changed the name of the eighth month to his name and then he was happy.
- SO... The law was passed – Report to your hometown, register, and pay your tax to Caesar. Refuse, and you will be hunted down and enslaved, or worse.

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.

- 90 miles... Imagine taking a donkey and a pregnant wife, by foot, to Solvang...

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.

- Being told that there was no room for you is a lonely experience.
- Being nine months pregnant and being told that there was no room for you was dangerous.

- Being in your hometown, nine months pregnant and being told that nobody had room for you was insulting and shameful.
- So, this carpenter and his young wife do the best they can to find room for her to lie down and deliver the most famous baby in history... His first bed was a manger used to feed animals... So, we rightly assume that the witnesses to His birth were the beasts that shared the shelter with Jesus.
- We have sanctified and sanitized that barn scene throughout the centuries... We make it look cute. But there is a reason why when you travel outside of the country – they ask upon your return: Have you spent any time around farms, animals, or barns? If yes, we don't want you back! You're dirty! Go back!
- But the little quiet town of Bethlehem is about to be woken up!

### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

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, (**Damion Kyle – give us one good reason not to be**) for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (**Abrahamic Covenant**) 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David (**Bethlehem**) 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."

- Savior, Christ, and Lord.
- That is what Jesus should be to all of us... Savior, Christ, and Lord

***And as if the angels of heaven could no longer hold back...***

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!"

## ***Gloria in Excelsis Deo***

- It was the first flash mob choir in history...
- Seven years ago, in our Oaks Mall the choir from Thomas Aquinas College gathered around the Santa Claus and sang – it sounded like angels... you can watch it at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_mKrVWoTz8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_mKrVWoTz8)

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.

- The Messiah, the one they had waited for, for centuries... came like a whisper...
  - They expected that He would be announced by trumpets...
- The Messiah was lying in an animal's manger...
  - They expected that He would be in a crib – and that in a palace...
- The Messiah was born to a humble couple...
  - Not to a king... Not to a queen... But to them! To us! To all of mankind.

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, **(home)** glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

I suggest that we do the same. In a moment we will worship the Lord by singing and by lighting a candle. Let this little candle represent the Light of the World.