

Christmas 2021 003

12/19/21

The King Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

I. **Introduction:**

A. **Prophetic preciseness**

1. One of the many validations of authenticity of the Bible is its prophetic preciseness.
2. Throughout the Old Testament we see where God foretold certain events through His prophets and these events came true exactly as God had predicted.
3. Everything Bible has prophesied thus far in history has happened as God said it would.
4. The Bible is the only book in the world for which this is true.

B. **The Birth of Jesus**

- *The birth of Jesus was foretold precisely many times in the Old Testament.*

1. – Isaiah (Isaiah 9:6-7)

(1) Unto us a child is born

- a. This refers to incarnation of Christ & to the virgin birth.
- b. Jesus took on human flesh so He could be our substitute on cross of Calvary.
- c. This foretold the humble birth of our Savior.

(2) Unto us a Son is given

- a. A Son is given because Jesus existed in heaven before His birth in Bethlehem.
- b. God the Father gave to us God the Son, so He might die for our sin & we might be saved. (**John 3:16**)

2. – Micah (Micah 5:2)

- a. The prophet Micah, a contemporary of Isaiah, foretold the exact place where Jesus would be born 700 years before His birth.
- b. The High Priest referred to this verse when Herod asked about birth of Jesus.
- c. This prophesy is precise.

(1) Exact Location

- a. Not just any Bethlehem, for there was more than one town by that name.
- b. Bethlehem Ephrathah specifically identified the Bethlehem which was the home of David's family.

(2) Jesus' Destiny

- a. The baby born in that town will be the ruler of Israel. This prophesy specifically identified Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of David.

(3) Jesus' Deity

- a. Jesus is God, always has been, always will be.
- b. Jesus was both God & man in His incarnation.

C. **Unprepared**

1. The Jews were so unprepared for Jesus' birth, even in light of such detailed prophesy.
2. Most Christians today are so consumed with the affairs of this life they are blind to the prophesy and warnings of scripture. Paul described the problem. (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**)
3. Lost world & many professing Christians are unprepared for the return of Christ even though the Bible is clear concerning what to expect.

II. **Prophesy Fulfilled (Luke 2:1-3)**

A. **Historical Setting**

1. Historical records show Augustus ruled over Rome as emperor from 27 BC to AD 14.
2. Augustus was a distant nephew to Julius Caesar. After Julius Caesar was murdered in 44 BC, there was internal war in Rome involving Mark Antony, Octavian, & others.
3. All were vying for the throne. Augustus became Rome's undisputed emperor in 27 BC.

B. Registration

1. Historical records show the Romans took a census of its citizens about every 14 years.
2. The census was for two reasons, taxation and compulsory military service.
3. The Jews were exempt from forced military service in the Roman army, but they were not exempt from the taxes. All citizens had to return to their family home to be counted.

III. God's Sovereign Control (Luke 2:4-5)

A. Out of Nazareth

1. Joseph and Mary had been living in Nazareth, but the prophet Micah foretold the birth of Jesus as taking place in Bethlehem. Mary had to move from Nazareth to Bethlehem.
2. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem was between 60 and 80 miles
3. God used Caesar Augustus' decree to move Mary to the prophesied place for the birth.

B. House of David

1. The reason they had to move to Bethlehem for the census was Joseph's lineage.
2. Luke reminds us again that Joseph was of the lineage of King David.
3. As the first born of Joseph's family, Jesus has the legal right to the throne of David.
4. Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus, but as the step-father the right to the throne passed to Jesus all the same. When Jesus returns, He'll sit on the throne of David.

C. Sovereign Design

1. God the Father sovereignly arranged birth of Jesus in the right place at the right time.
2. God used Roman government to bring about the perfect time & place for Jesus' birth.
3. He moved Mary to Bethlehem and He used Caesar Augustus to do it.
4. Still Sovereign: God is moving human history toward His determined culmination.
5. Two things are happening currently that prove God's prophetic warnings.

(1) – The Spread of the Gospel

- a. With advent of computers & internet, gospel has spread across globe like never before in church age. Majority of people being saved now aren't in this country.
- b. God is building His church from among every tribe, tongue, nation in the world.

(2) – The Fulfillment of Prophecy

- a. Everything the Bible states concerning humanity just before the return of Jesus is happening before our eyes. In the last days the Bible says the following:
 - (1) It will be like the days of Noah before the flood.
 - (2) There will be a falling away from the church.
 - (3) There will be many false teachers.
 - (4) Many will be deceived by these false teachers.
 - (5) There will be wars and rumors of wars.
 - (6) The frequency and severity of natural disasters will increase.

- b. All of these things are happening right now, today!

IV. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:6-7)

A. Simplicity and Magnitude

1. Simplicity of Luke's account cannot mask or hide magnitude of this historical event.
2. Jesus is the eternal God, always has been, always will be.
3. Angels, cherubim, & seraphim have worshipped Him from moment of their creation.

4. For all eternity Jesus has been clothed with grandeur that only God Himself possesses.
5. Yet Jesus laid aside all that outwardly identified Him as God & took on form of baby.
6. The very God who holds all the universe in the palm of His hand, was in this moment wrapped in the body of a helpless human baby.

B. Greatest Act of Humility

1. The birth of Jesus was the greatest act of humility in all eternity.
2. Jesus came to take our death for sin, so we can share in His life forever. **(2 Cor. 8:9)**
3. Jesus was born to lowly parents, spending His 1st hours sleeping in a feeding trough.
4. Jesus did that because He loves us & He wants to save us.