

## Away In A Manger 2025

Luke 2:1-7

### I. Intro

- A. Christmas looks a little different than it once did.
- B. Celebrated all around the world as a time of great impact on people
- C. For some it is the most wonderful time of the year, for others it is a very difficult time.
- D. Why is Christmas celebrated in the pattern it is now?
  - 1. December 25:
    - a) Some say the Shepherds would not have been keeping their flocks by night in the winter, but this does not account for the flock of passover lambs that were kept near Bethlehem, which is also near the temple, and they were kept by specific instruction according to the interpreted Jewish law. It is not a specific Bible truth, but what if the host of angels announced the incarnation to the shepherds who were keeping the passover lambs?
    - b) December 25 was a date marked by pagans for worship at the winter solstice, but in 336 AD, emperor Constantine made it a celebration of the birth of Jesus, though the exact date of His birth is unknown.
    - c) This causes problems for some, but lets not forget the purpose was to rid the known world of pagan worship by redeeming the date of a pagan holiday.
    - d) I celebrate the birth of my savior, knowing that the exact date is unknown, but appreciative of the global recognition of His life.
  - 2. Presents, decorations, and St. Nicholas
    - a) Saint Nicholas, the historical figure, was Bishop of Myra, in modern day Turkey.
    - b) He is known for his generosity and gift giving, as well as the legend from the council of Nicaea in 325 where he had had enough of the heretic Arius and went to the debate floor and punched him in the mouth.
    - c) The decorations vary greatly over all who celebrate, but evergreens and lights are common: Life and light are these symbols.

### II. Text

- A. This is a brief narrative regarding the Birth, but has three points:
  - 1. political situation
  - 2. Messianic connection to David
  - 3. humble beginnings to the life of Christ
- B. Verse 1-2
  - 1. registration and taxation
  - 2. Quirinius (c. **51 BC** – AD 21) was a Roman aristocrat. served in different roles and then became tetrarchy of Judea in AD 6, Quirinius was appointed legate governor of Syria, to which the province of Judaea had been added for the purpose of a census.
  - 3. When introducing him to the story, we need to note:
    - a) The word 'governor' is a verb in the greek text, an action rather than a title and sound be governing, as in working in the regional political realm.
    - b) If he had be Legate, a title for the man in charge, it would have used the word.
    - c) Whatever the case, there is historical evidence that puts Quirinius in syria as a ruler at 4 bc, and 6 bc, so it is uncertain of the exact date, but what is certain is that he was there at the right time for the historical record to match the biblical record.
  - 4. The preparation for this expansion in his role could have been the trigger for the census for the taxation.
  - 5. It is believed that the first census was in preparation for the final binding census that would have started in AD 6, but in Quirinius' role, he would have been a part of the government in this preparation time as well, with some evidence showing he ruled twice in Syria.

6. Historians date the birth of Jesus as early as 4 bc, and as late as 6 ad, but as with anything regarding exact dates in antiquity, there is much debate.
- C. Verse 3-4: The City of David, Bethlehem, just across the valley from the Temple and from Jerusalem.
  1. this would have been the family heritage home town
  2. Messianic prophecies fulfilled
- D. Verse 5:
  1. Betrothed, like a binding engagement period.
  2. Marriages would have been arranged by the parents and a contractual agreement would have been in place.
- E. Verse 6-7
  1. she gave birth
  2. Wrapped Him in cloths
  3. Laid him in a manger
  4. Because the main house was full
  5. Humble beginnings for the King of Majesty
  6. A typical house during the time of Jesus:
    - a) Living quarters on the top floor, with open air and tent like coverings
    - b) Second floor, called the guest room, or Inn, a word used later to mean what it means today.
    - c) And the bottom floor would have been the courtyard where the livestock would have been kept, along with a manger.

### III. Points:

- A. The Incarnation
  1. Physical/Historical elements:
    - a) there is no doubt or speculation as to where the birth took place
    - b) He location is not questioned by locals, historians, or honest skeptics
  2. John 1: The WORD became flesh and dwelt among us
  3. Jesus was promised, planned for, missed, crucified, and still relevant today
  4. The physical manifestation of God changed the world, and fulfilled the law and the prophets.
  5. We celebrate today. But why December 25?
    - a) The church took a pagan holiday and made it a Holy-day
    - b) We then took a Holy-day and made it commercial
    - c) The joy of Christmas was the promised gift of God arrived, and He is still alive today
    - d) He brings hope, because as long as Christ is alive there is hope.
- B. The Glorification
  1. The king of kings in a manger
  2. Not the plan of man, but certainly the plan of God.
  3. There was no glory in the manger, until Christ was laid there
  4. There was no glory in the cross, until Christ hung there
  5. There was no glory in the grave, until Jesus overcame death
  6. There will be a day when we are welcomed into CHRIST'S GLORY, but we could live there now.
  7. You can experience the glory of Christ in your life today!
    - a) Allow your heart and mind to be transformed and renewed
    - b) Seek Christ and right relationship with Him
    - c) Become righteous, and devout...super important words for us today.
- C. The Invitation
  1. How do you make room for Jesus
  2. Is there room for Christ in your life?
    - a) Do you need to simplify your busy life?
    - b) Do you need to prioritize the gathering with the body?

- c) Do you need to remove distractions?
  - 3. In 2nd Timothy, we see the challenge to REMEMBER JESUS, so don't forget to make room today.
  - 4. How?:
    - a) Get real
    - b) Get simple
    - c) Get involved
    - d) Get right
    - e) Get honest
  - 5. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!
- IV. Close

[Luk 2:1-7 ESV] 1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.