

The Advent of Jesus the Messiah

Born in Humility—The Servant King

Luke 2:1-20

It is incredible to contemplate the incarnation of the eternal Son of God. What is even more incredible is to consider the circumstances surrounding his birth. For all practical purposes, the Savior of the world was born in obscurity to poor parents in demeaning surroundings.

I. The Characters Involved

- A. Mary, a young virgin of low birth as much as we can tell
- B. Joseph, a skilled craftsman who performed common tasks, perhaps on Herod's temple then under construction
- C. Shepherds, tending flocks in the country hillsides and lands, perhaps those lambs suitable for offering at Passover, since they were near Jerusalem
- D. Angels, heralds of the birth announcement

II. The Sovereignty of God and the Careful Observation of Predictive Prophecy

- A. Micah 5:1-5
- B. Proverbs 21:1, The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord, He turns it wherever He wishes.
- C. God not only reveals the future to His people, He insures its literal fulfillment (Luke 2:1-5)

III. The Humble Birth of the King of Kings

- A. The registration of the census overwhelms the available accommodations in many places, In Bethlehem there were no rooms left for visitors and so Joseph and Mary were forced to take shelter in a cave or barn-like place, probably used in the lambing season by area shepherds.
- B. With no real furnishings and hay for bedding, Mary give birth in the lowliest of circumstances and Joseph fashioned a crib for the new born in a feeding trough for the animals.
- C. Mary swaddled the baby in whatever cloths she had available and laid him in the manger bed while she rested from her labor.

IV. The Birth Announcement

- A. The angelic host proclaiming His birth could have visited any one or group, but they were sent to shepherds in the fields keeping watch over their flocks in the night.
- B. The shepherds knew just where to go to find the new baby: to the lambing place where the ewes gave birth to lambs destined for the Passover sacrifice.
- C. Soon they spread the news to everyone they could, and returning to their flocks they were amazed and glorified God, praising Him for all they had seen—just as the angels had said.

Could anyone have recognized the powerful symbols surrounding His birth place? The sovereignty of God leading—forcing—Mary and Joseph to the place where the Passover sacrifices were born to give birth to the Lamb of God who would at last truly take away the sin of the world? Could Jesus' birth have been more humble, more base and lowly; could His manger bed have been more poor?

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