

Luke 2:1–8

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

“A Savior, Christ the Lord”
Luke 2:8-12

INTRO:

Have you ever wished you could have been there when something we read about in the Bible took place? I would have liked to have been there when the walls of Jericho came down. Another place I would have like to have been is when Elijah ascended to heaven. Wouldn't it have been tremendous to be at Elisha's elbow and watch this faithful servant of God go home without dying? Besides being with Joshua and Elijah, I think it would have been wonderful to have been with the Shepherds that night when the angel of the Lord appeared to them.

Can you imagine what it was like to have your routine interrupted in the way the shepherds had their's on that first Christmas? ***“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.”*** I have never met an angel. But I know from Scripture when they appear to men they look like any other man although usually clothed in white. They knew this was an angel. What grabs our attention here is what the angel said. ***“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy***

which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” As we explore the message of the messenger, we will see it in terms of three parts.

I. HE IS THE LORD

II. HE IS THE CHRIST

III. HE IS THE SAVIOR

I. HE IS THE LORD

A. We will look at this birth announcement in reverse order. He who is born in Bethlehem is first the Lord.

1. This is clearly a reference to His deity. Earlier in this context Luke used this word to describe the angel. In **verse 9**, Luke wrote,

“Behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.”

This statement makes no sense at all if the **“Lord”** here is not the Lord of Glory, Yahweh, Himself.

2. Who then is this one born in Bethlehem and wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger? It is none other than the Lord of the Universe incarnate in human flesh.

B. We read of His coming in **Isaiah 9:6**, where we are told:

“For unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called. Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

1. He is wonderful in that He will do things only God can do. He is the one who makes only the right choices and lays the best plans.

2. He is the Mighty God. Not less than God, but God of very God. He is the everlasting, eternal Father. From everlasting to everlasting He is God. Finally, He is the source of peace. Where He is reigning, there is peace indeed.

C. The Apostle John also understood that the One born at Bethlehem was God in Human flesh, He wrote in **John 1:1-3**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

After this great assertion of His deity, John writes in **verse 14**.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

D. The one truth about the nature of our Savior, the whole world will one day admit is that He is Lord of all.

Philippians 2:11-13 *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

II. HE IS THE CHRIST

A. He is the Lord, but there is more to this announcement. He is also the Christ. This title comes from the Greek word to anoint. This is equal to the Old Testament term, **Messiah**. He is the promised one.

1. The Old Testament concept of the Messiah was the Messianic King promised in the covenant made with David in **2 Samuel 7:12-13**.

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”

2. Besides being a king, the Old Testament also sees the coming Messiah as a prophet and a priest. **Psalm 110** portrays the coming Messiah as *“a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”* **Deuteronomy 18:15** identifies the Messiah as a prophet like Moses.

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”

B. One aspect of the Messiah’s ministry that the Old Testament scholars all missed, that is that He would be a suffering sacrifice for His people. Jesus, the Babe born at Bethlehem, would be a prophet, a priest, and someday King of all.

C. He would also be the suffering Messiah of **Isaiah 53:2-6**.

“For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we

are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”

It is amazing that He was the fulfillment of all the promises that God made in the Old Testament. It is miraculous He came to suffer and die in our place. As the angel told Joseph,

“You shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sin.”

III. HE IS THE SAVIOR

A. The Greek word means Savior or deliverer. For someone to be a savior he has to deliver someone from some peril.

B. Jesus is the Lord, and He is the Christ. The good news is that He is also our Savior. He who would deliver us from the greatest danger of all – being sinful creatures before a holy God.

1. Too easily we forget what we are apart from the Savior.

Romans 3:10-12 ***“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”***

2. Apart from the Lord of Glory we face eternal condemnation for our sin!

Revelation 20:15 ***“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”***

The Apostle John describes our peril vividly in **John 3:36**

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

B. He who is Lord of all, came as the Christ, the promised Messiah, in order that He might deliver us from this peril. He also came to deliver us from the bondage to our sin.

Is it any wonder, then, why the angel of the Lord said, ***“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”***

Hymn #203 And Can It Be