

Luke 2:1-21: The Greatest Gift



Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

¹ In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to **Bethlehem** the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, **a son**. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Micah 5:2 (NIV)

“But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be **ruler over Israel**, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Luke 2:8-21 (NIV)

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, **he was named Jesus**, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

²¹ ...you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because **he will save his people from their sins**.”

my notes

Big Truth:

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Discussion Questions

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1. **Read Luke 2:3-6.** Then read the 700 year old prophecy from **Micah 5:2**. What is the significance of this prophecy being fulfilled? How does the description in Micah fit the person of Jesus?
2. Have you ever heard of Jesus being born in a house or a cave instead of a stable/barn? What is the danger in getting caught up in animals, a stable, or an inn keeper (not mentioned in Scripture)? Why is HOW it happened not as important as THAT it happened?
3. What does **Codex Bezae Cantabrigiae** (6th century NT manuscript of Matthew) tell us about how these Christians viewed Jesus? (Remember that all words are written in silver on purple parchment...with the exception of 'God, Jesus, Christ, Lord' - written in GOLD)
4. **Read Matthew 1:21.** Why did Jesus come to earth and what does that say about 1) His love for sinners & 2) His hatred for sin (remember the cross)?
5. What are some real-life ways WE can live out the big truth that **The Greatest Gift is God's Presence** - throughout this week of Christmas?