

## Epic Christmas: God Loved the World (Luke2:1-7)

### 1. God's Mercy and Might Through the Ages (Luke2:1-7) \*Job, God's power in creation, fringe His power

A. Caesar \_\_\_\_\_ (emperor of Rome) *\*vs.1-3*: How did he and Rome come to power?

1. Babylon: capturing Israel, Daniel taken as slave; Nebuchadnezzar's dream – gold statue

*\*Babylon, Medes/Persians, Greeks – Alexander the Great; kingdom split into 4 parts*

2. Caesar Augustus rise to power...Gaius Octavius; born Sept23, 63BC; grandnephew Julius C

*\*Mark Antony/Queen Cleopatra battle of Actium vs. Gaius Octavius; 31BC*

*\*Gaius Octavius ruled Rome until 14AD, was named Caesar Augustus-highly honored*

*\*greatly expanded Rome's power, built roads thru empire, made gospel spread quickly!*

3. Caesar's edict/census, Quirinius gov/leader; 8BC, called for them every 14years

*\*archaeology shows all this is true; Jesus born around 4BC; the 4years of politics...*

*\*Jewish tradition for families to go to ancestral city, not Roman, this is 1<sup>st</sup> Rome census*

B. City of \_\_\_\_\_ (Bethlehem) *\*vs.4-5*: The rise and fall of Israel

1. God's promised to Abraham: ***Gen12:1-3***

2. Joseph sold to Egypt by brothers to save Israel, so Messiah could come (***Gen45:7-8***)

3. Ruth and Boaz – Ruth, Moabite, God cursed; the kinsman redeemer to come! (***Ruth4:14,17***)

4. King David – God's promise: He would establish David's throne forever, for Messiah!

*\*2Sam7:8-10,16-17,23-24; ***Isaiah9:6,7!****

5. Geneology of Jesus – Matt1:1-17: God sovereignly worked thru wicked and righteous; ***Mic5:2***

C. The Days were \_\_\_\_\_ (Joseph and Mary) *\*vs.6-7: ***Matt1:18-25****

1. All of history moved thru 1000's of years for this moment, for 2 people to be in Bethlehem!

2. Consider the shame Mary felt being unwed and pregnant – would people really believe her?!

3. Joseph/Mary homeless in Bethlehem – Messiah born in cave w/ animals, laid in feed trough

4. *\*Why* a poor family? *Why* no fame/fanfare, and a very sketchy geneology? *\*Matt1:16-17*

***\*WHY?*** \_\_\_\_\_ *\*Lk2:10-11!*

### 2. An Epic Christmas: God Loved the World!

A. God is \_\_\_\_\_ over all; He works His plan regardless of what man does and wants and desires – remember the pagan Caesar Augustus! *\*Now*, consider our political issues today...don't worry!

B. God \_\_\_\_\_ His Word/Promises! God cannot lie!!! ***\*Heb6:13-19***

1. Take hold of the HOPE set before us in Christ for every area of your life! ***Trust*** \_\_\_\_\_!

2. He literally moved the heavens, earth, all people; for 1000's of years to fulfill His word to bring Messiah to save us, AND that He would be born in Bethlehem! ***\*Rom8:28,31-32***

C. God's \_\_\_\_\_ to the world is Epic!!! ***\*Heb2:17-18***