

- I) **V1-20 INTRO: And it came to pass in those days**  
The promise of Christmas was first given in the Garden of Eden  
After Adam and Eve took of the forbidden fruit, God cursed the serpent  
He said a descendant of Eve would appear one day and would crush  
him
- II) **The promise He made at that time became more specific over time**  
Later, He told Abraham that *his* descendants would be a blessing to all  
of the world
- III) **This would take place through Abraham's great grandson Judah and then  
through his descendent Jesse, and finally through Jesse's son David**
- IV) **The prophets began giving more specific details concerning this promise**  
The Messiah would be born to a virgin, in the town of Bethlehem  
He would be preceded by a forerunner and would speak as a prophet,  
like Moses
- V) **In all, over three hundred specific prophecies related to Messiah were  
given**
- VI) **By the time of Jesus' birth, the people were longing for deliverance**  
They were under the oppressive rule of Rome, and were longing to be  
free
- VII) **It was at this precise moment in time that God fulfilled His ancient  
promise**  
Gal 4:4-5 But when *the time had fully come*, God sent his Son, born of a  
woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the  
full rights of sons.
- VIII) **When the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary and told her she would be the  
mother of the Savior she did not ask *What Savior*, but simply asked how can  
this be? (Lu 1:34-38)**
- IX) **It was made possible by God's Spirit, for with Him, nothing is impossible  
(1:37)**
- X) **At this point, Mary and Joseph have traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem**  
V7 They had tried to secure a room in a home or a hotel but none were

available

- XI) V7 makes it clear that There was no room for them even *in the inn*  
The word inn is not speaking of a hotel, but is speaking of a stable
- XII) LUKE'S POINT: There was not even room for Mary *in the stable*  
Mary gave birth in the open; there was no one to help her, or to attend to her
- XIII) V7 *She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger herself*  
In the midst of her pain, embarrassment and loneliness, there was great joy  
She had given birth to the Messiah and heaven was about to explode with joy
- I) INTERESTINGLY: People at that time were wrapped in strips of cloth *twice*
- II) FIRST: They were put in swaddling cloths when they were born  
The child would be gently washed with salted water, and wrapped from head to foot, leaving a portion of the face uncovered so he could breathe. His body would be held very straight, with the hope that he would grow up to be free from crookedness of the heart, and would walk tall before people  
After the parents prayed and made their commitment to God, they unwrapped him
- III) SECOND: A person was wrapped in cloths was *for burial*, as when Jesus died
- IV) In Jesus' birth, we also have a picture of *His death*, as He was born to die  
Prophetically, He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- V) I will come back to this point in a moment
- VI) V7 THERE: She brought forth her firstborn Son  
FIRSTBORN: In prominence, order, and importance
- VII) V8 Now there were in the same country shepherds *living out in the fields* keeping watch  
These shepherds were performing the task of watching over sheep

They kept an eye on them in 3-hour shifts, protecting against predators and thieves

VIII) The sheep intended for temple sacrifice were pastured in the fields of Bethlehem

These shepherds kept watch over the sacrificial sheep, but now hear of the *Lamb of God*

It is to these shepherds that the good news is first given

X) There had been 400 years of silence since the closing of Malachi, the last OT book

NOW: At *precisely the right time* God reveals Himself in the most personal way to men

Gal 4:4-5 When the *fullness of the time* had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons

XI) V9 And Behold an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord

An angel of the Lord *stood before* them: Literally, *stood in place above them*

XII) AS THEY SAW THE GLORY OF GOD: Their hearts trembled in fear

XIII) V10 DO NOT BE AFRAID: I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people

You live in a world lacking joy, and has been under oppression for hundreds of years

I am bringing you good news: And this news is for *all* people

I) God has made it possible for you to be completely forgiven and have a new life

II) This joy of salvation is not for Israel alone, but for everybody

Is 52:10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of *all the nations*; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God

III) V11 For there *is born* to you this day in the city of David a *Savior* who is Christ the Lord

A Savior has been born, because we have need of salvation

IV) Every human being has sinned, and every person needs forgiveness

Nobody is perfect, all are in need of salvation  
Eccl 7:20 For *there is* not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.

V) This will come through the baby that has been born in Bethlehem  
Gal 3:22 The Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

VI) **HE IS CHRIST THE LORD:** He is the anointed one  
This points out the Savior of the world in his prophetic, royal, and priestly offices  
Prophets, kings, and priests were anointed with oil when installed into their offices.

VII) V12-14 AND: This will be *the sign* to you; you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling  
Before they could react, the Choir burst out in praise  
NOTICE: First, Glory to God, *then* peace to men

VIII) TO THE GLORY OF GOD: Christ Who is our peace has been given to man  
Jesus is not simply bringing peace, *He is* our peace  
Eph 2:14 He Himself *is our peace*

IX) **FACT:** The only way to have any peace is to have Him in the manger of your heart  
There is *no peace* on earth except among those with whom God is *well pleased*  
WHEN: Men are reconciled to God, through his Son, they will love one another

X) V15-20 So it was when the angels had gone away from them into heaven

XI) Finally, they came and saw Jesus in *swaddling cloths* and shared about Him: Why?

XII) I was reading about the significance of the swaddling cloth, referred to as the sign  
One writer mentioned that these shepherds were caring for passover offerings  
Because the lamb was to be without blemish, they took special care

with them

**These shepherds cared for the Passover lambs that were offered to God**

I) The shepherds would set aside every firstborn male lamb for the Feast of the Passover. It was of great concern to the shepherds that these particular lambs remain without blemish in order to comply perfectly with God's instructions. One of the problems they faced was that it was common for newborn lambs to try to walk too soon, before their legs were strong enough to fully support them. In those cases, the lamb would often inadvertently break one of their legs and therefore would no longer be without blemish. So it was common practice for the shepherds to wrap the baby lamb in swaddling clothes and place it in a manger until it was strong enough to go to its mother. This practice ensured that the lambs remained without blemish!

II) **QUOTE:** The shepherds were in the unique position of understanding exactly what this meant. This would immediately click with them because this is precisely what **THEY** did! No further words had to be spoken to them by Mary and Joseph. When they saw, they knew exactly what this meant.

III) They recognized that Jesus was the perfect Lamb and went and told everybody

This is what every genuine believer in Jesus will do

The Lamb of God was born to be a sacrifice for man's sins: we receive, and we share

