

# Luke 2 Pt 1

Jesus

## I. Child Born/Savior Given

**Isaiah 9:6** ...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.

- **Child Born** Jesus Humanity Born to Mary His mother 100% Human
- **Son Given** Jesus Deity Given by God His Father 100% God

The flesh of a Babe was the chosen vehicle of the Living God that He might leave the perfection of the Heavenly dimension to visit the time/space of ours...to sympathize with our weaknesses not from a distance but **up close, personally**, and **experientially** even as our Creator literally **walked in our shoes**. [NJC]

### Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us!

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.

### World in desperate need of a Savior...

- **Those days 1-4 AD:** Rome/Her colonies inc. Israel all ruled **by Caesar Augustus**
1. **Augustus:** Adopted son of Julius Caesar
  2. **Given Name:** *Octavius*.
  3. **Octavius** petitioned Roman senate for a title, i.e., *Augustus*; **exalted/sacred**

### Now a god in his own eyes...

### Caesar Augustus changed everything...

- **Rome:** Once a Republic governed by laws... **now an Empire ruled by Dictator**
- **Caesar Augustus** acquired much power...yet **demanding absolute power**

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men. [Lord Acton, 1887]

The ability of unregenerated man to maintain any sense of humility while in a place of growing power is not possible due to his unrestrained sinful nature/desire for more. [NJC]

Till this time...no one had more power over more lives than Caesar Augustus

**Only a chess piece in God's plan to get Joseph/Mary to Bethlehem and fulfill His Word**

**Micah 5:2** "But you, Bethlehem... Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, **From everlasting.**"

- **Joseph/Mary observe Roman census...**

1. **South to Bethlehem:** King David was born 1000 year earlier
2. **Never would have gone** if not commanded by **ruthless Caesar Augustus**

Yet...Ultimate Power/Complete Sovereignty belong to the Living God alone  
**Uses all things in His plan to fulfill His purpose...**

- Uses people, circumstances, trials to **move us where he needs us to be**
- Tyrant's egotistical census moved Joe and Mary

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.

- Mary's first child/not her last...

**Matthew 13:55** Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us?

This Child would be different than her other children...than all other Children  
**God's vehicle to visit man was through this Child...**

**Matthew 1:23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**God with us.**"

- **Humble Birth** Feeding trough/no rooms available/Mary wraps babe herself
- **Humble Life** Heal/Save/Deliver others yet still no place to lay His head
- **Humble Death...**

**Philippines 2:8** He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the **death of the cross.**

**Born to die that we could Live...No other way of forgiveness**

**Hebrews 9:21**...without **shedding of blood** there is no remission [forgiveness of sin].

**Hebrews 10:4** ...it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, **But a body You have prepared for Me.** [A body created to be destroyed]

**SUMMARY Child Born/Savior Given**

**Jesus always has been and never has not been  
God the Son now made manifest in human flesh to be both our Sacrifice/Savior**

- **Return to the Glory He had with the Father**

**John 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, **with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

IOWs Jesus did not show up on the scene for the first time 2000 years ago. He is the scene.  
[NJC]

## II. Unlikely Evangelists

8 Now there were in the **same country** shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an **angel of the Lord** stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

- **Shepherds near Bethlehem**

1. **Night watch over sheep:** Sacrificial lambs for Passover?
2. **An Angel of the Lord** [Gabriel?] shows up

### **Glory of God takes over the scene...shining all around Shepherds**

10 Then the angel said to them, "**Do not be afraid**, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is **Christ the Lord.**

- **Typical Angelic greeting:** Do not be afraid! I have a great message!

Gospel/Good Tidings

The Savior has been born tonight! Messiah the Lord!

12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

**2 Corinthians 8:9** .... though He was rich, **yet for your sakes He became poor**, that you through His poverty might **become rich.**

**Philippians 2:7**...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself** and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

**Only One in Bethlehem is in a manger wearing rags  
That's the One. He is Christ the Lord...**

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, **goodwill toward men!**"

### **Veil Removed...Army of God Revealed**

**2 Kings 6:17** ...Elisha prayed, and said, "Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of **horses and chariots of fire** all around Elisha.

- **Heavenly Host/Angel Army of God:** Commander in a manger?

**Joshua 5:13** .... he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" 14 So He said, "No, but as **Commander of the army of the Lord** I have now come." And **Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped**, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" 15 Then the **Commander of the Lord's army** said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so. [As Moses to Jesus in burning bush]

**Q.** How long has Jesus been Commander of Angel Army. **A.** Since He created them!

- **Heavenly Host:** Angel Army of God are in **Awe of Jesus love for man**

**1 Peter 1:12** [OT Prophets spoke of how God would save man] They were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—**things which angels desire to look into.**

**Lights on: Multitude of Angels Praising God  
Glory to God in the highest/On earth peace/Goodwill toward men!**

- **Real Peace to those who embrace Him...**

While [Caesar Augustus] may give peace from war on land and sea, **he is unable to give peace** from passion, grief, and envy; he cannot give peace of heart, for which man yearn for more than even outward peace. [Epictetus] Only Jesus can

1. **Peace w/God** Once enemies at war with God/Now at peace by Cross
2. **Peace of God** No fear of man. No fear of circumstances. God is on our side

[The world situation] ...forced the thinking men of that age to feel/confess the insufficiency of human reason to deliver and perfect of mankind. [JV McGee]

**We can never muster up from within this kind of peace  
It must come from without...from the God who came to earth to save us**

- **Angelic Message:** Peace and **Goodwill to men:**

God's Grace revealed through Jesus that we might experience an unearned/undeserved infusion of peace even on this hostile battlefield of human existence. [NJC]

**Heavenly Host proclaim our purpose for existence**

1. **Give Glory to God** Love God w/all you heart, mind, soul, and strength
2. **Show Goodwill to men** Reflecting God's Grace. Loving our neighbor as ourself

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "**Let us now go to Bethlehem** and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they **came with haste** and found **Mary and Joseph**, and the **Babe** lying in a manger.

- **Angels fly for heaven/Shepherds run to Bethlehem...searching every manger**

17 Now when they had **seen Him**, they **made widely known the saying** which was told them **concerning this Child**.

**Broadcast:** Our Savior was born tonight!

First Evangelists were Shepherds. Lower class. Despised by men. Loved by God

18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and **pondered them in her heart**. 20 Then the **shepherds returned**, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

▪ **Response to Angelic message**

1. People marveled
2. Shepherds returned field...now praising God for using them to proclaim Jesus
3. **Mary pondered...**

Mary had good reason to [ponder/think about]. **What had brought her to Bethlehem?** An emperor's great decree from Rome and gossiping tongues in Nazareth. God works through all kinds of people and all kinds of events to accomplish His plan. [Guzik]

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

**SUMMARY Unlikely Evangelists:** Proclaim angelic message of good news. Angels return...

For the next thirty years the angel army will look down from Heaven and remain in awe watching the commander they obey serve, suffer and die for the Salvation of man. Caesar Augustus will take his power with him to the grave. Buddha will take his stories with him to the grave. Confucius will take his sayings to the grave. Yet the grave could not hold this One called Jesus: Born in a manger, crucified, resurrected on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, and ascended to His Father on High to receive the Glory that had always been His. [NJC]

**Q.** How do we Magnify the Lord this year?

**A.** Make Him greater than your circumstances

Those little hands will **one day grasp the scepter of universal empire**; those little arms will one day grapple with the monster 'Death', and destroy it; those little feet shall tread on the serpent's neck, and crush that old deceiver's head; yes, and that little tongue, which has not yet learned to articulate a word, shall, before long, pour from his sweet lips such streams of eloquence [and will bless] the minds of the whole human race, and infuse his teaching into the literature of the world; and again [in] a little while... that tongue shall pronounce the judgments of heaven on the destinies of all mankind. We have all thought it wonderful that the God of glory should stoop so low; but we shall one day think it more wonderful that the Man of sorrows should be **exalted so high**. Earth could find no place too base for him; heaven will scarcely find a place lofty enough for him. [Spurgeon]

**King of Kings/Lord of Lords. Creator. Redeemer. Savior. Lover of our Souls**