

Christmas In July

Luke 2:1-14

Luke 2:1: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. (KJV: "taxed")

Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus - grand nephew

Scripture gives us a unique **vantage point**. (Jeremiah 1:12)

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.

Galatians 4:4

Luke 2:2-3: This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Luke 2:4-5: 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. (KJV: "great with child")

Luke 2:6: So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

Luke 2:7: 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.

PROPHETIC

Swaddling cloths: Jesus' death and burial

Manger: • bread of life • house of bread • feeding trough

Stable (cave): Lamb of God

No room for them in the inn: Joy to the World

Luke 2:8: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Why is the setting the fields of Bethlehem? This is where the Passover lambs were raised.

Luke 2:9: And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

How powerful are the angels? In the Old Testament one angel killed 186,000 soldiers.

Luke 2:10: 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."

Luke 2:11: "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

The Good News is **not** that He is King of Kings or Judge but that He is Savior!

Luke 2:12: "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Luke 2:13: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host [armies] praising God and saying:

Luke 2:14: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The angels **provoke** the church to worship. We have a **greater reason** to praise and glorify God than the angels!

Q: Good news —> **great joy** —> **ALL people** —> What about you?