

11-13-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Christ, Our Savior is Born

Purpose: Proclaim the historical account of our Savior, Jesus Christ and provoke people to apply 'life lessons' surrounding His birth.

Truth for Today: Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Text: Luke 2:1-20

Topic: Christmas, Birth of Christ, Saint Nicolas

## **Christ, Our Savior is Born**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Schedule: Next week in Ms. to conduct niece's wedding. Christmas services: Chr. Eve, Sat. 4:30 and 6. 1 hour service for the entire family. No KZ. No Sunday services. New series starting Jan.1<sup>st</sup>, "Something More".
- B. Def. Christmas: Mass of Christ<sup>5</sup>, a worship celebration of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The earliest evidence of Dec. 25 as a recognition of the birth of Jesus was the Feast of the Nativity 1<sup>st</sup> celebrated in 336 in Rome. Dec. 25 marked the winter solstice, the beginning of the victory of light over darkness after the year's longest night. Jesus is called the light of the world and his light prevails over the darkness of the world.<sup>6</sup>
- C. The origin of Santa Claus was Saint Nicholas, the bishop of Myra, born during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Turkey. His wealthy parents died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to the those in need and his love for children...3 Pictures Nic/ Santa; Santa bowing at the manger.
- D. Today we'll talk about the 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. We'll learn about the history surrounding His birth and find principles to apply to our life today.
- E. Title: Christ, Our Savior is Born
- F. Truth for Today: Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **II. The birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ**

- A. Luke 2:1–20 (NLT) At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed (imperial edict<sup>2</sup>) that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire...3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this

census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.

1. Luke shows us God's sovereign rule over the affairs of humanity.<sup>2</sup> Like King Cyrus, Caesar Augustus is seen as a divine agent bringing about God's purpose and plan. <sup>2</sup> God used a political ruler's plan for taxation to reposition Joseph and Mary 90<sup>2</sup> miles so Jesus would be born in Bethlehem prophesied 700 years earlier by Micah, [Micah 5:2 (NKJV) "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."] Life lesson: Fulfilled, predictive, Biblical prophecy is a proof of the validity and trustworthiness of the Bible.
  2. Life lesson: The sovereign God operates the hands of time. Vs.1. '*At that time*'. World events are being orchestrated towards God's ultimate plan. Pic clock
  3. Life lesson: Politically powerful people are pawns in the hands of God. Vs. 2, '*the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire*. Politicians seem all powerful but they're not. Picture puppet
  4. Life lesson: God is sovereignly orchestrating our lives. Davidic dynasty. 4 *And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem.*
    - a. Genealogy 77 generations, [Luke 3:23–38 (NLT)... Jesus was known as the son of Joseph...<sup>32</sup> **David was the son of Jesse**...<sup>34</sup> Judah was the son of Jacob. Jacob was the son of Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham... Seth was the son of Adam. Adam was the son of God.] [Mt. 1:17 (NCV) So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. And there were 14 generations from David until the people were taken to Babylon. And there were 14 generations from the time when the people were taken to Babylon until Christ was born.] [Ps. 37:23 (NLT) The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.]
- B. Vs. 5 He took with him Mary, (NKJV) his betrothed wife, who was now expecting a child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

1. Background: Mary was a virgin when the HS caused her to be pregnant with Jesus. [Luke 1:34–35 (NLT) Mary asked the angel, “But how can this happen? I am a **virgin**.” 35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.] His birth was prophesied 700 years earlier, [Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)... Look! **The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).**]
- a. Vs. 7 The *inn* probably refers to a crude overnight lodging place for caravans,<sup>2</sup> There was not even room in this public place because of the crowds for the census. Outside the walled area was a place for animals. According to tradition, they were in a cave near the inn. The *manger* was a trough from which livestock fed.<sup>1</sup> I wonder how many angels got fired because they forgot to reserve a room.
2. Life lesson: Humility is a major lesson of the manger. Jesus modeled humility, so should we. [Phil. 2:5–9 (NLT) You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. 6 Though he was God...7...he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.] I.e., he came to serve, not be served. He came to give, not receive. We’re to follow His ex. and will be rewarded.
3. Life lesson: God often has a plan behind circumstances we can’t understand.
4. Life lesson: We can welcome and honor Jesus or ignore and reject Him like the people in the inn and in town.
- C. Vs. 8 That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. (Pic)They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”
1. Vs. 8 *And there were shepherds*. Shepherds were often humble men. They were not rich or powerful. Some shepherds didn’t have the best reputation because they were dishonest and unclean according to the standards of the law. They represent the outcasts and sinners for whom Jesus came. Such outcasts were the first recipients of the good news.<sup>2</sup> God didn’t tell the king,

governor, or mayor about Jesus, He chose poor, humble shepherds. Life lesson: There's nobody so poor, broken or bad that God can't forgive, save and change them.

2. Vs. 10, *I bring you good news, i.e., gospel.*<sup>2</sup> Vs. 11 Savior, Christ/ Messiah (The anointed One) and Lord all describe the uniqueness and exclusivity of Jesus as contrasted to other religions. The people under Rome's rule came to call the emperor "Saviour" and Christians took the word and used it of Christ.<sup>4</sup>
3. Who was this child? Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah and Savior of the world. [Isaiah 9:6–7 (NLT) For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his **ancestor David** for all eternity...] Before Jesus rules as King of Kings and Lord of Lords he had a job to do, [John 1:29 (ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, **the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**"]
4. Life lesson: Every human being needs a Savior. Later the church would proclaim that Jesus is the only Savior, for salvation is found in no one else.<sup>2</sup> [Acts 4:11–12 (NLT) Jesus... 12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."]
5. Throughout Luke, *joy*, is often associated with salvation.<sup>1</sup> Why? The consequences of sin, eternal judgment is removed. [Romans 6:23 (NIV) For the **wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**]

### III. Conclusion

- A. Vs. 17 After seeing him, **the shepherds told everyone what had happened...** 20 The shepherds went back to their flocks, **glorifying and praising God** for all they had heard and seen...
  1. Life lesson: Like the shepherds, it is our privilege and responsibility to tell people about Jesus, the Savior of the world.
- B. Life lesson: Vs. 20 *glorifying and praising God* for all they had heard and seen. The modern celebration of Christmas features Santa, elves, lights and reindeer. Let's enjoy our cultural traditions but keep our focus. Truth for Today: Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### IV. Response

- A. Altar/ Prayer/ Souls

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Martin, J. A. (1985). [Luke](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 208). Victor Books.
2. Stein, R. H. (1992). [Luke](#) (Vol. 24, p. 104). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
3. Marshall, I. H. (1978). [The Gospel of Luke: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (pp. 96–97). Paternoster Press.
4. Robertson, A. T. (1933). [Word Pictures in the New Testament](#) (Lk 2:7). Broadman Press.
5. Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In [Harper's Bible dictionary](#) (1st ed., p. 163). Harper & Row.
6. Huggins, R. V. (2000). [Christmas](#). In D. N. Freedman, A. C. Myers, & A. B. Beck (Eds.), *Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible* (p. 240). W.B. Eerdmans.
7. <https://www.history.com/topics/christmas/santa-claus>
8. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Nicholas>

VI. Supplemental Material

- A. Vs.4, Luke taught his readers that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Jewish messianic hopes by showing that he was born in David's town (2:4, 11)<sup>2</sup>
- B. There is a sense in which this statement is not only Christological in nature (in what it says about Mary's child) but also anthropological, for it says that the Gospel's readers, both past and present, are the kind of people who need a Savior!<sup>2</sup>
- C. Vs. 14, The NIV 's **on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests** is preferred to the KJV's "good will toward men." God's peace is not given to those who have good will, but to those who are recipients of God's good will or favor.<sup>1</sup>
- D. Vs.15, **The shepherds** went to see **the Baby**, and they told what **the angels** had related to them. The shepherds understood that the angels were speaking for **the Lord**. They believed the message and went to confirm it for themselves. This was much like the action of Mary after she had heard the message of Elizabeth. Such an attitude contrasts sharply with that of the religious leaders who knew where the Baby was to be born but did not take the time or the effort to confirm it for themselves (Matt. 2:5).<sup>1</sup>
- E. Vs. 15, **But Mary treasured up ... and pondered**. This along with Luke 2:51 indicates that Mary did not fully understand the implications of all that

happened to her. Compare Dan 4:28 (LXX) and Gen 37:11, where this word or a similar one is used to describe a person who is puzzled by what they have heard but keeps it in mind in order to understand, often with divine help, its meaning<sup>2</sup>

- F. The twin motifs of the rejection of Jesus by the world and of God's acceptance of ordinary humble and needy folk, to whom he chooses to reveal his salvation, thus come to expression in the story at the outset, and remain of decisive significance throughout the Gospel.<sup>3</sup>
- G. A final Lukan theme is the divine visitation to the poor and humble of Israel. God's visitation of salvation comes to the humble (1:48, 52) and hungry (1:53), not the proud (1:51–52) and rich (1:53). Thus those present at the birth of God's Son were not this world's rulers or its religious leaders. Rather the angelic invitation was extended to shepherds on the fringe of society, and they were present to see the birth of the Lord Christ.<sup>2</sup>
- H. Vs. 13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”
1. Life lesson: angels are real. [Hebrews 1:14 (NIV) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?] Usually unseen, the reality of angels at work on the earth
  2. Life lesson: God is worthy of our worship. 13...*praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in highest heaven.*
  3. “Peace” refers here to the fullness of blessing which the Savior/Christ/Lord brings and is essentially a synonym for salvation (cf. Acts 10:36).<sup>2</sup> Peter prior to the HS falling on Gentiles, [Romans 5:1 (NLT) Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, **we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.**]