

12-24-2023, COTR Texarkana

Title: God Is in Control...Then and Now

Purpose: Declare the sovereignty of God in the historical account of the birth of Christ and provoke people to have faith that God is in ultimate control of world events today and of our lives as followers of Christ.

Truth for Today: God is in ultimate control of world events and the lives of His followers.

Text: Psalm 99:1

Topic: Sovereignty, Incarnation, Christmas

God Is in Ultimate Control

I. Introduction

A. Text [Ps. 99:1 (NIV) **The LORD reigns**, (*NCV **The Lord is King**; MSG **God Rules!***) **K** let the **nations tremble**; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the **earth shake**.

B. Title: God Is in Ultimate Control

C. Purpose: (1) Declare the sovereignty of God in the historical account of the birth of Jesus Christ and (2) Provoke people to have faith that God is in ultimate control of world events and of our lives as followers of Christ. Life App.

1. Def. sovereign(ty): One who is supreme in power and authority and is superior to all others. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe. Absolute sovereignty belongs to God only.¹ Noah Webster, 1828. God is omitted today.

II. The historical account of the birth of Christ

A. [Luke 2:1–21 (NLT) At that time the **Roman emperor...**decreed that a **census** should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.] The most powerful man in the world was unknowingly a part of getting Jesus to the predicted place of His birth.

1. Life app. #1: World leaders are puppets in the hand of God to accomplish His will. [Proverbs 21:1 (NCV) **The Lord can control a king's mind** as he controls a river; he can direct it as he pleases.] // world events. God causes and allows.
2. Tension: There are 3 forces in the world operating under God's sovereignty: (1) God's will, (2) satan's plans, (3) the free will of man to make choices. 3 fists **K**

B. [Vs. 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.] Genealogy of Jesus, [Luke 3:23–38 (NLT) Jesus was known as the son of Joseph.³² ...David was the son of Jesse.³⁸ ...Adam was the son of God.] **K**77 generations, Jesus to Adam, the 1st son of God. // us God's sovereign plan

1. Prediction of location of Jesus birth, 700 years before Jesus was born, [Micah 5:2 (NKJV)...**Bethlehem**...out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be **Ruler in Israel**, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From **everlasting**.]
2. Life app. #2: God is in control of our lives. [Proverbs 16:9 (NCV) **People may make plans** in their minds, but the **Lord decides** what they will do.]

C. [Vs 4 He traveled there from the village of Nazareth...⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child...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.**] **K**The son of God and King of Kings rested in an animal trough. He was clothed in pieces of cloth, not royal robes.

1. This was no accident He was born in an animal stall. It was God's sign to the world that Jesus would humble Himself (Def. humble: submitted to God's will; God 1st and me 2nd) and sacrifice His life to save us.
2. Life app. #3: We should be humble like Jesus. [Phil. 2:5–8 (NLT) **You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.** ⁷...**he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave** and was born as a human being....⁸ **he humbled himself in obedience to God** and died a criminal's death on a cross.

III. Conclusion/ Response

A. [Vs. 8 That night there were shepherds...guarding their...sheep. ⁹...an angel ... appeared...and...¹⁰ ... said. "I bring you **good news** that will bring **great joy to all people.** ¹¹ **The Savior...has been born** today in Bethlehem...]

1. Siri: What is a savior? Someone who saves you. **K** // drowning Why do all people all need a Savior? Because we all have a problem called sin that separates us from God now, and will one day cause people to experience eternal judgment. We need to be forgiven to be saved, i.e., rescued from the consequences of our sin.

2. How do we get saved? We believe in Jesus, ask Him to forgive us and follow Him. You can make a decision right now to follow Jesus. We will pray with you.
 - a. Prayer team
 - b. Sing silent night, glo-sticks

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

1. Webster, N. (2006). In [*Noah Webster's first edition of An American dictionary of the English language*](#). Foundation for American Christian Education.

V. Supplemental Material

A. Luke 2 ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” 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.” ¹⁵ When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. ¹⁷ After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. ¹⁸ All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, ¹⁹ but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. ²⁰ The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them. ²¹ Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.