

Christmas 2017

12/17/17

Sunday Morning

1. In Luke's Gospel Christ is portrayed as a man
  - a. That is why His lineage is traced back to Adam – (the first man)
2. Because Luke was a doctor & b/c Christ was depicted as a man Luke gives the most detailed account of His birth & the events surrounding Christ birth

**Luke 2:1** Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

V.2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

V.3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

V.4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

V.5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

V.6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

V.7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

V.8 In the same region there were some **shepherds** staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

V.9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

V.10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, *I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;*

V.11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

V.12 "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

V.13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

V.14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

V.15 When the angels had gone away from them **into heaven**, the shepherds began saying to one another, "*Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened* which the Lord has made known to us."

**V.16 (NP)**

V.16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

V.17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

V.18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

V.19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

V.20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

1. "I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people"  
(V.10)

- a. Why is this news "great joy"?
- b. B/c God became a man!
- c. Scripture gives several reasons for this great wonder
  - i. Only as a human being could Christ accomplish some of the things He accomplished

d. **#1.** Christ became a man to manifest God to men

- i. Man, because of his fallen state, couldn't know much about God
- ii. God is too lofty for man to know

**Isaiah 55:8** "For My thoughts are **not** your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

**1 Timothy 6:14** that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>15</sup> which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;

<sup>16</sup> who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

iii. Christ came to show us Who God is!

**John 1:16 (NP)**

**John 1:18** No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

**John 14:9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

e. **#2.** Christ came in the flesh to reveal to man what man was **supposed to be**

- i. Whatever man was created to be – the fall destroyed it
- ii. We can look to the Son & see what we were supposed to be before the fall & how far we have fallen

**Matthew 11:29 (NASB77)**

<sup>29</sup> "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and YOU SHALL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

**Matthew 20:26** "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant,

<sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

**Luke 22:27** "For who is greater, the one who reclines *at the table*, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines *at the table*? But I am among you as the one who serves.

**John 13:15** "For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.

**Romans 15:3** For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED THEE FELL UPON ME."

**1 Corinthians 11:1** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

**Ephesians 5:2** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

**1 Peter 2:21 (NP)**

**1 Peter 2:21** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

**1 Peter 4:1** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

**1 John 2:6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

f. **#3.** Christ came that He might **sit on David's throne as King of Kings** to **rule** over mankind

i. Men cannot rule **themselves** – left to on our own we will **self-destruct!**

ii. Christ became a man so as to rule over man

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be **no end** to the **increase** of His government or **of peace**, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

g. **#4.** He became a man that He might **destroy Satan** & his works

i. Man was defeated by Satan & **Satan has the title deed to mankind**

ii. We know that he has the title deed to this world & all that is in it (including mankind) b/c Satan offered it to Christ

**Matthew 4:8** (NP)

**Matthew 4:8** Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and **their glory**;

<sup>9</sup> and he said to Him, " All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, ' YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

- iii. **Satan has been judged** & his work & power must be destroyed

**John 12:30** Jesus answered and said, " This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes.

<sup>31</sup> " Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

**John 16:11** and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

**Colossians 2:13** And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

<sup>14</sup> having  canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

<sup>15</sup> When He had disarmed the **rulers** and **authorities**, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

**Hebrews 2:14** Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, **the devil**;

<sup>15</sup> and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

- h. **#5.** He took on flesh **to defeat "Death"**
- i. Physical death interrupts everything man does – no one finishes in this life b/c of death
  - ii. Spiritual death cuts off all eternity **Jn.11:25 (NP)**

**John 11:25** Jesus said to her, " I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me **shall live even if he dies,**

<sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall **never die.** Do you believe this?"

**1 Corinthians 15:54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, " **DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

<sup>55</sup> " O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?"

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

<sup>57</sup> but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

i.

j. **#6.** He became a man **to become our High Priest**

i. The priest was a man who stood in the gap between God & man (he represented man to God)

ii. Christ, as a man, was qualified to be our High Priest

**Hebrews 2:17** Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are,* yet without sin.

**Hebrews 5:7** In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

<sup>8</sup> Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. **V.9 (NP)**

V.9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,  
<sup>10</sup> being designated by God as a **high priest** according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 7:22** so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> And the *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers, because they were prevented by death from continuing,

<sup>24</sup> but He, on the other hand, because He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

<sup>25</sup> Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

<sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins, and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did **once for all** when He offered up Himself.

<sup>28</sup> For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, made perfect forever.

- iii. Many denominations believe you can **lose** your salvation
- iv. **Do you know why** they believe that?
- v. Because they are **looking at the man & his sin** instead of **looking at the High Priest & His Sacrifice**

- k. **#7.** He became a man to **become the Sacrifice for our sins**  
**Acts 20:28** "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.  
**Hebrews 10:5** Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, " SACRIFICE AND OFFERING THOU HAST NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY THOU HAST PREPARED FOR ME; **Hebrews 9:14 (NP)**

**Hebrews 9:14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

- i. He came to save us from judgment b/c of our sins  
**Luke 2:11** x for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

a. **#8.** He became a man **to become the Head of a new creation**

- i. Thru **all** eternity we will be united w/ Christ
- ii. Our future is so grand it is impossible to describe – **words fail**
- iii. **We are described as a part of His body**  
**Romans 12:4 (NIV)** Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,  
<sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.  
**1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.  
<sup>12</sup> For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, **so also is Christ**.  
<sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.  
**1 Corinthians 10:17 (NIV)** Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.  
**1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)** Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.  
**Ephesians 5:30 (NIV)** for we are members of his body.

iv. **We are called the Church (which is His body)**

**Ephesians 1:22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave **Him as head over all things** to the church,  
<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 5:23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body.

**Ephesians 5:29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church,  
<sup>30</sup> **because** we are members of His body.

v. **We are called the Bride**

**Ephesians 5:31** FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.

<sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

**2 Corinthians 11:2**<sup>(Paul to church in Corinth)</sup> For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.

vi. **We are called His brethren**

**Romans 8:29** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, that **He** might be the first-born among many brethren;

**Ephesians 1:5** He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

vii. **We are a unit, He is the head of that unit**, that defies words!

**Colossians 1:18** (NP)

**Colossians 1:18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the **first-born** from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

viii. We will **be united** w/ Him **thru all eternity!**

**Revelation 22:5** And there shall no longer be *any* night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, **because** the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> And he said to me, " These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place.

**V.10** And he said to me, " Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

<sup>11</sup> " Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

<sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

<sup>13</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

<sup>15</sup> **Outside** are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

<sup>16</sup> " I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."

**Revelation 22:17** And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost. **V.20 (NP)**

**V.20** He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

**Luke 2:15** x When the angels had gone away from them **into heaven**, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

1. "Let us go straight to Bethlehem...see this thing that has happened"
  - a. Isn't it interesting that the shepherds were so anxious to go see the Christ Child but the religious leaders wouldn't go 6 miles to check

**Matthew 2:3** When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

<sup>4</sup> Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'"

**\*They didn't want the Shepherd!**

- b. **It is still the same today** – some folks **run to Him** others **run away from Him!**