

## Episode #548 Christmas 2019 1: Christ's Birth

I. The birth of Christ was a miraculous event that prepared the way for all that He would accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection. At this time of year we remember that birth and the glorious salvation that God gave us as a result.

II. Luke 2:1-3. "All the world should be taxed"

- A. Verse 1. This was a Roman census for taxing purposes, taken every 10 years.
- B. Verse 2. Notice the exact details. At the time, Luke was challenging people to look into this and find out that all he said was true!
- C. Verse 3. Would not be in the dead of winter, or they may have had many riots on their hands! This would be in the fall just after the summer harvest came in. Most people did not move from their home city, so this would not be so burdensome.

III. Luke 2:4-5. "And Joseph also."

- A. Verse 4. Galilee was on the trade routes. More Gentile influence, but less religious fervor there. Bethlehem was the traditional city of David's family. It was near Jerusalem. Many Passover lambs would have been provided from the shepherds there
- B. Verse 5. Notice Mary was a betrothed wife. This seems odd to us, but was their culture. This was legally binding, so she was an unmarried "wife."

IV. Luke 2:6. "While they were there."

- A. Joseph would not have been so careless as to take his 9-months pregnant wife on a long, hard journey! They had traveled earlier, and were already there.
- B. Joseph had family in Bethlehem, so probably stayed with them.

V. Luke 2:7. "No room for them in the inn."

- A. Inns of the time had one main room where visitors stayed.
- B. Giving birth made women unclean (Leviticus 12:1-4). A separate, unclean room would be needed for giving birth. Yet there was no such room!
- C. The stable was not a last-minute plan. They had planned and prepared for this in advance.
- D. This was an inn's stable. It may have held donkeys and camels, as an inn would.
- E. Swaddling clothes were what the poor dressed their babies in. He was not born rich! Consider the odd situation the King of all the world was born in! Surely there is much to learn from this. God did not come for the rich and powerful, but for the lowly!

VI. The traditional story of the birth of Christ is filled with ideas that are not in the Scriptures. This was a real, historical event, not a legend, and the people in it did things that made sense to their time and culture. God sent His Son, not to be born in rich palaces and luxurious surroundings, but to a humble mother and a lowly stable. This shows us how different God's kingdom is to be than the governments of mankind. His government is far different from the governments we create, and its riches are very different from the riches of this world. Christ came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Praise God for this miraculous, wonderful birth!