

Luke 2.1-20

Our Christ has Come!

If wanna send Xmas card to Jesus – HOW would have ADDRESSED IT?

MAYBE try....Jesus Christ – P.O. Box 777 – Nazareth?

LOTS of Jewish men Named JESUS – or JOSHUA “God SAVES”

Christ NOT LAST Name > TITLE Greek “CHOSEN or Anointed One”

Greek word Title > CHRIST – SAME word in Hebrew = MESSIAH

OT Peppered with Ref’s to Holy Spirit

Right from 1st pg Bible “Spirit of God” over waters during 6 Days of CREATION

Spirit of God GIVEN to JOSEPH to Interpret Pharaoh’s DREAMS

To Bezalal to Build God’s Tabernacle

PROMISES of PROPHETS – Chosen One is Coming – Filled with Holy Spirit

Messiah would also GIVE Spirit to Followers > They too Spirit-filled

Take FAITHFUL Ones to Eternal Kingdom – Home of RIGHTEOUSNESS

Expected Messianic figures ranged from King to Priest to Prophet

Many DIFFERENT Hopes for MULTIPLE messianic figures

Like Present Day POLITICIAN Promising HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

Idea of Messiah in 1st C EVOKED Many Ideas, Hopes, Questions

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord...He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked...for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11

Step into LUKE 2 see WELL KNOWN, MUCH LOVED story...

1. Human Struggle vs. 1 - 8

a. Mother with Child

1) Victim of Circumstances

vs. 1-4 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Young FAMILY is CAUGHT UP in middle of CENSUS of Entire ROMAN World

CAESAR AUGUSTUS - Roman Emperor from 27 B.C. to 14 AD

Grandnephew of Julius Caesar

CENSUS - Periodic Registration: TAXATION every 14 yrs?

JOSEPH, MARY, & JESUS - Pawns moved by Government Decree

NO PROXY – Family Could NOT Send Letter saying Young Woman PREGNANT

Apparently THIS BIRTH No More Effect on Caesar & Roman Empire

Than You & I are having on Presidents & Parliaments of OUR World

2) Painful Journey – almost 150 kms on DONKEY / 8 or 9 MONTHS Pregnant

v. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Joseph & Mary > Bethlehem "town of David" / 1000 yrs Earlier Shepherd Boy

3) Anguish and Loneliness

vs. 6,7 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger

“SHE WRAPPED AND PLACED” > MARY BOTH MOTHER and MIDWIFE
FAR from RELATIVES and FRIENDS

Jesus’ BIRTH > PUBLIC EVENT > Many Impartial Witnesses NOT MYTH

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. John 1.11

NO Room in INN or WORLD He Made > Only place for JESUS was the CROSS

b. Occupied Innkeeper

v. 7 because there was no guest room available for them. NO ROOM IN INN

"NO ROOM FOR THEM" > Joseph failed Make ON-LINE Booking

UNKNOWN INNKEEPER - Name? Man / Woman? Details?

Small Village Full of ROMAN OFFICIALS - CENSUS TAKERS

Born in STABLE of INN?- Underneath? Within Walled Enclosure? Cave?

NOT MALICE, Cruelty, being INHOSPITABLE > NO ROOM FOR JESUS

NO ROOM for HIM Today // HEARTS of many - TOO FULL

Overcrowded w/ Thoughts of Prestige, Pleasure, Honor, Business

On CHRISTMAS – Little Sister’s JOB to Hand Out PRESENTS to FAMILY

Now KAYLA was 5 yrs old CAN READ all NAMES on TAGS on Presents

HANDED OUT All the FAMILY GIFTS – Stood Looking at TREE

"I thought Jesus' b-day, where is his gift?" > NO ROOM for JESUS

“O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for thee”

c. Searching Shepherds

v. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Invitation from ANGELS NOT TO KING, SCRIBES, PHARISEES, RULERS

Not appear Caesar's Palace – Rome or 9th Island! - or Temple in Jerusalem

1) Outcast

vs. 8,9 “keeping watch over their flocks at night... and they were terrified”

Probably NOT Bible Scholars – LITTLE Time to Perform Rituals at TEMPLE

Erratic Attendance at SYNAGOGUE >> SHEEP Needed CONSTANT Watching

Many Preachers Wondered if DRINKING to KEEP WARM?

SEPARATED FROM FAMILIES > Who knows what's Happening on those Hills?

NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE WORLD EITHER

We might have BAD Things to SAY about Shepherds > IMPORTANT to God

Personal Invitation from HEAVEN 1st Christmas Night > COME, SEE Messiah!

Because TITLE Messiah was so SUPER-charged with MISUNDERSTANDING

JESUS did Not Call Himself Messiah very Often – Favorite title SON OF MAN

And, People who DID get told Jesus was Messiah / Christ – a Bit SKETCHY

ANGELS Tell Unclean, Outcast Shepherds MESSIAH has Come for THEM

Another SKETCHY Person – who Met MESSIAH was Born in BAD PLACE

John 4 – Jesus OUT there – Samaria! Woman! Too Many Husbands!

“I know MESSIAH is COMING” – Jesus said “That’s ME!”

So EXCITED Ran All thru Village – “Come See Guy who Knows and Loves US!”

Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

2) Open

v. 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

EAGER = "Let's GO...HURRIED OFF"

MORE OPEN to God than Many People in BUSY WORLD Today

Lots of People SLEEPING In – SHOPPING – Not even Christmas get them Church

...God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? James 2.5

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS / Examines Hearts Not Incomes

v. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Their OBEDIENCE of FAITH Brought them GREAT BLESSING

2. Divine Interpretation

a. Sign of Humility

v. 12 “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Jesus PROBABLY NOT ONLY Baby Born THAT NIGHT in Bethlehem

City Full of all TRIBE of Judah > Come to PAY taxes to ROME

Jesus NOT ONLY Newborn WRAPPED in CLOTHS that NIGHT

PROBABLY Only one who SLEPT in a MANGER

ONLY Baby in Bethlehem HONORED by 3 Titles: Savior, Christ, Lord

Angels Right! Good News > EVANGELION > Good NEWS of GREAT JOY

Word used by Romans to Announce Births of Caesars

NO Caesar’s Birth – Ever FILLED Skies with SUCH AWESOME SIGHTS

WHERE will FIND this LONG EXPECTED ONE – Fulfillment of Israel’s Hope?

Where FIND One whose ANGELS FLOOD the SKIES w/ LIGHT & SOUNDS?

WHAT?? – HONORED One in such HUMBLE PLACE?

GLORIOUS One amidst the GROVEL of Animal FOOD and DUNG?

One who FILLS BOUNDLESS Skies NOW is BOUND in STRIPS of Cloth?

UNLIMITABLE God now LIMITED by BANDS of Man-Made Weave?

THIS will be the SIGN?? > CREATOR tucked away in secluded CAVE?

TIMELESS One now TIED Round by Simple STRIPS of Cloth

STABLE NOT Palace // Feeding TROUGH for Animals not Pretty Bassinet

Have you heard this So OFTEN – that there is NO MORE SHOCK in WORDS?!

SAVIOR, CHRIST, LORD...LYING IN MANGER

700 years before this Bethlehem Night ISAIAH Prophesied...

...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53.2,3

INCARNATION begins with HUMILIATION

Veiled in flesh the Godhead See, Hail the Incarnate Deity

b. Songs fill the Heavens > BECAUSE Jesus IS the CHRIST!

v. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. >> SUDDEN APPEARANCE - Brilliant, Awesome

vs. 13,14 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven...

SURPRISE UPON SURPRISE - Entire Army of Angels Descends

Glory of God - HARD to Understand: Weight, Heaviness, Tangible Presence God

ENCOUNTER Glory of God – CHICKEN SKIN Experience to DA MAX

c. Savior is Here

vs. 15,16 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby

LOVING GOD came DIRTY, SMELLY MANGER

GOOD NEWS - EVANGEL "GOSPEL"

ONLY PLACE in his Gospel that Luke uses the word "Savior"

If HE can Stay in Dirty Manger & there is HOPE for Our Dirty Hearts

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3.17

3. Rejoicing in Him – Christmas and Forever

a. God's Plan

v. 9 the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified

Angel Appears - Seen Typical Reaction –from Genesis to Revelation

NO WONDER – Holy God appears to Sinful Person – Staggering, Devastating

Angels in Bible NOT Cuddly / Cute > Buff, Brilliant, All BOW before Them

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge Proverbs 1.7

v. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

PROMISES & PROPHECIES given to Daniel 500 yrs Before INCARNATION

> Point Here: Today, Savior, Born

God who sustains WORLD by His WORD – STEPS into World as BABY

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law Galatians 4.4

VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCES - NOT Mary, Joseph, and Jesus

Pawns of God this Story > Named Caesar Augustus and Governor Quirinius

v. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

b. God's Praise

v. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

NO GREATER CAUSE FOR JOY

GOD SOLVED MAN'S GREATEST PROBLEM Tariffs? Hunger? Pollution?

MAN'S Greatest PROBLEM SIN - Not Right with Creator God > All Else Wrong

Remember that His DESTINY was DECREED in His NAME > JESUS

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and said, "...you are to give him the name Jesus, because *he will save his people from their sins.*" Matthew 1.20-21

THEN 30 something Years Later – Lived Perfect Life – Loving God and Man
Teaching – Healing – Helping – Loving > Pointing Relentlessly to GOD

In 30 something years > Jesus from COLD CAVE to CRUEL CROSS

FROM the CROSS Jesus was ONCE AGAIN Bound in CLOTH

So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. John 19.40

Lord Jesus – ENTERS / LEAVES World BOUND > Child AND on CROSS

NOT a TRAGIC ACCIDENT > but the DIVINE PLAN

BORN to be BOUND > from BIRTH to DEATH/BURIAL to RESURRECTION

Appears 3 Days Later – Risen from Dead – CLOTHED in GLORY

His MISSION was to RELEASE US from what BINDS US!
 ADDICTIONS, Horrible HABITS, Besetting SINS – Deadly CHOICES
 CROSS sign of VICTORY > EMPTY // MISSION of Redemption FINISHED

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
 1 John 3.16

v. 14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

GOD'S SOVEREIGN DELIGHT

Father WELL PLEASED with His SON / PLEASURE FOUND IN HIM
 EMBRACE the Son – You will DWELL in God’s PLEASE

v. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

AMAZING to See PEOPLE SING CHRISTMAS Carols - NEVER SING AT ALL
 World Realizes - Something Great Happened

GREAT MUSIC OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH - All Languages and Styles

c. Go Preach!

vs. 17,18 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
 M’s landed on Hawaii April 19, 1820 – 1st Sermon April 23 in HNL – Luke 2.10

Remember CHILD: Bound in CLOTH
 Remember MAN: Bound to CROSS

We BOUND to HIM > OUR CHRIST > Savior / Healer / Lord / Friend

2000 yrs after Jesus CAME – 200 years since Xtian Workers came to HI
ENTIRE World STOPS and REFLECTS > Christmas is EVERYWHERE

People EVERY NATION Worship

We – Gathered from Every Nation – Very Different in MANY WAYS
BECOME SIGN to World > Display GRACE & TRUTH of Him who Came for Us
Our Christ has Come!

Luke 2.¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.