

Sermon Title: “Christmas From The Parent’s Perspective”

Sermon Text: Luke 2:1-7

Introduction:

- Next to His crucifixion, the birth of Jesus Christ, was the most **momentous** event in the history of the world! In fact, it has become the **focal point** of all of history!
- The word “**incarnation**” literally means “*infleshment*,” and it refers to the embodiment of **deity** in **earthly** form, the union of **divinity** and **humanity**.
- *Several significant things that stand out in this text:*

I. The Decree From Caesar Augustus (2:1)

- *Caesar Augustus* was the Roman Emperor from **27** BC to **14** AD.
- The Romans conducted this type of census once every **14 years**.
- History records that *Quirinius* held the position of governor of Syria on **2** occasions - the 1st was from **4** B.C. to **1** A.D., and the 2nd time began in **6** A.D.

“Luke wanted it to be understood that the birth of Jesus was not a hoax, a myth, a lie, or the product of human fabrication! Rather, it was a factual, literal, historical event!”

- *Why* were people to return to the city of their ancestry?

II. The Journey To Bethlehem Of Judea (2:4-5)

- By means of the census, Caesar Augustus **unknowingly** contributed to the **fulfillment** of the prophecy of *Micah 5:2*!
- *Bethlehem* was located some **94** miles south of Nazareth and about **6** miles south of Jerusalem.
- The name “**Bethlehem**” means “*the House of bread*.” A fitting place for the One to be born who would be called “*the bread of life*.”
- *It is believed that Joseph & Mary made the trip sometime during the **last trimester** of Mary's pregnancy.*

- Jewish culture reveals that a good day's journey at that time amounted to little more than 20 miles. It's believed that the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem took approximately 6 long, hard days!

“Mary was ‘with child,’ but not just any child – for contained in her womb was the infant son of God was about to make his debut on planet Earth!”

III. The Birth Of Jesus The Messiah (2:6-7)

- Jewish history reveals that in Judea, at the time of Christ's birth, it was customary to hang a curtain in front of the door of “guesthouses” in order to indicate whether or not a room was available for guests.
- *Public inns were notorious for crime and corruption!*
- Tradition says that it was a cave located in the side of a hill behind the inn.
- *Philippians 2:5–7*

No other birth in history was so simple and yet so sublimely beautiful!

- What is the significance of the phrase “*firstborn son.*”
- *Matthew 13:55; Luke 1:47; Ezekiel 16:4*
- Once again, we're touched by the lowly condescension of the Son of God! (*II Corinthians 8:9*)

Conclusion:

A 17th Century German poet once said, “if Christ were born in Bethlehem of thousand times, and never in you, you would remain forever lost!”