

**Sermon Title:**

**“Christmas From the Parents’ Perspective”**

(Part 1)

Don Jennings

Harbour Shores Church

12.16.12

**Sermon Text:**

**Luke 2:1-7**

**Introduction:**

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

**I. The \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ (2:1)**

- **Caesar Augustus** was the Roman Emperor from \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. to \_\_\_\_\_ A.D.
- The Romans conducted this type of census once every \_\_\_\_\_.
- History records that **Quirinius** held the position of governor of Syria on \_\_\_\_\_ occasions – the first was from \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. to \_\_\_\_\_ A.D., and the second time began in \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4-5)**

- By means of the census, Caesar Augustus \_\_\_\_\_ contributed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the prophecy of **Micah 5:2!**
- **Bethlehem was located some \_\_\_\_\_ miles south of Nazareth and about \_\_\_\_\_ miles south of Jerusalem.**
- The name **“Bethlehem”** means **“The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_,”** a fitting place for the One to be born who would be called **“the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”**
- ***It is believed that Joseph & Mary made the trip sometime during the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mary’s pregnancy.***
- Jewish culture reveals that a good day’s journey at that time amounted to little more than \_\_\_\_\_ miles. It is believed that the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem took approximately \_\_\_\_\_!

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

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_ Of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:6-7)

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

*No other birth in history was so \_\_\_\_\_ and yet so sublimely \_\_\_\_\_!*

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of God!  
(*II Corinthians 8:9*)

### Conclusion:

*A 17<sup>th</sup> Century German poet once said, “If Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times and never in you, you would remain forever lost!”*