

A Child Is Born...

Luke 2:1-20

I. (v.1-3) Caesar Augustus-

- Originally “Caius Octavius”, Grand-nephew, adopted son and primary heir to Julius Caesar, was the then absolute ruler of the entire Roman Empire, after he defeated his last remaining challenger (Antony) in a military battle at Actium in 29 B.C.. The Roman senate then proclaimed Octavius Rome’s _____ ever Emperor. Two years later they honored him with the title “Augustus” [“exalted one”]. Rome’s republican government was then abolished and Augustus was given supreme military power. He reigned until his death at age 76 (A.D.14).

II. (v.4-5) Quirinius & The Census-

- Military governor of Syria, charged with administering the census which was to be throughout “all the world”= territories ruled and controlled by the Roman Empire. Normally the census would include only Roman Citizens and exclude Jewish citizens as they were not allowed to serve in the Roman military, however this was to be a larger “world-wide” registration by family and _____, thus Joseph, a Judean, had to return to his ancestral home (Bethlehem), about _____ miles away from Nazareth.
- Property & income values were not recorded in this census, but soon names and population statistics were used in levying poll taxes, and the Jews came to regard the census itself as a distasteful symbol of Roman _____.
- **POINT:** Although the authority in the land was not Jewish, Joseph and Mary, while knowing who they were carrying, still _____ to the governing authorities, even though 70 miles would be a bit of a challenge for pregnant Mary to travel. Thus, Joseph & Mary’s worship of the Lord included obedience to the current governors of the land..

III. (v. 6-7) No room for them in the Inn-

- The actual word for “Inn” here is more likely translated as “_____ room”. It was tradition for people to stay with family or friends at their houses, not hotels. So it was likely that the family house that they wanted to stay in, was already crowded due to the Census, forcing them to have to stay at the lowest level of the house (or at a nearby, family-used stable) which was mainly used to house their animals at night.
- **Swaddling Cloths-** Strips of cloth used to bind a baby _____, keeping their arms from scratching their face. The lack of swaddling cloths could be a sign of poverty and lack of parental care. Not every baby had these...
- **Manger-** Literally a feeding _____ for animals, definitely not an honorable situation, by the world’s standards.

IV. (v. 8-20) Shepherds, Angels & Bethlehem-

- **Shepherds-** Bethlehem was nearby Jerusalem and many of the sheep used in the _____ sacrifice came from there. The surrounding hills and fields were prime grazing land, so it was common for shepherds to be seen in that region.
- **Angels Announce-** God used these simple shepherds to serve as eye-witnesses and heralds to the miraculous event (**Matt. 11:25-26**)- a Savior born of a virgin, a true miracle in many ways ; the fulfillment of God’s promise of a Savior.
- **Heavenly Hosts & The Birth-** The word “*Host*” used to describe the encampment of an _____, so it’s possible that a large number of Angels appeared (**Rev. 5:11**). This would almost be overwhelming to behold, but would give undeniable validity to this miraculous event. Thus, the shepherds would have earth-shaking confidence, and personal heart-felt conviction as they go tell the people of the good news.
- **Peace on Earth-** Not to be understood as a universal statement to all the world, but more so the _____ issue of spiritual reconciliation between God and mankind.