

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
December 20, 2020

Read Luke 2:1-24

Census/Registration/Taxation (1-7)

Caesar Augustus—Over all of Roman Empire (1)

Quirinius—Governor of Syria Province that covered Israel—Samaria/Judea at the time (2)

Everyone was registered and everyone's ability to pay taxes was assessed. This process took time, up to forty years. So what we read was compressed.

Joseph went to own city. Up from Galilee to Bethlehem (90 miles), near Jerusalem. Wherever you were, Jerusalem, and the hill country, was always considered to be "up." (4)

Bethlehem—City of David—because he was of the lineage of David. (Lineage means little to most Americans.) (4)

Mary—his betrothed (not his married wife)—(great) with child (5)

While they were there—How long? (6)

First-Born Son (7)—Swaddling cloths. Bandage-like strips of cloth wrapped around baby to keep limbs straight.

Manger—No room in the inn. (7) Perhaps something like a garage. Animals were kept close to home or in the home because of their value. If this is not winter, some animals might be out, such as the sheep that the shepherds were watching.

Thoughts:

- Born with the animals, as Adam was created, without human society.
- Cast out in birth. Cast out in death.
- Deprived of comfort.
- No trappings of royalty.

Angels and Shepherds (8-20)

Shepherds/Night/Keeping Watch/Same Country (8)

An angel of the Lord—Gabriel?—Stood (Not floated.) (9)

Glory shone (*doxa* (NT)/*cabod* (OT)—Heavy) (9)

Greatly afraid—Feared (with) great fear—They phobed with mega phobia! (9)

"Do not phobe!" (Be terrified)—Good news! (Evangel)—Great joy! (Mega joy!)—To all the people! (10)

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Born today—City of David—Soter—Christos Kurios! (Christ Lord, not Christ the Lord—Remember that Kurios had been used of God previously (Lord God in 1:32, etc.) (11)

Sign: (12)

- Baby
- Wrapped in swaddling cloths
- Lying in a manger

Suddenly/Immediately/Unexpectedly—became/appeared (on the ground?)—A great number—Heaven's army (13)

Praising God and saying (not singing)—No evidence that angels sing. Reserved for mankind? (13)

Glory (*doxa*)—in the highest (Heaven?)—to God, and
On earth—Peace (full blessings of the Messiah's coming) (14)

Goodwill— (14)

- Favor on men. (Peace, goodwill on men.)
- On men of goodwill. (Peace on men of goodwill.)
- On whom God favors/is pleased. (Peace on men with whom God is pleased.)

Angels went back to Heaven. Shepherds said—(15)

- Let's go to Bethlehem
- See this thing
- That has come to pass (confidence)
- Which the Lord (God again) has made known to us (No reference to angels.)

Shepherds hurried. (16) Found Mary and Joseph and the baby—lying in a manger.

Shepherds made the saying/matter that was told them known. (17)

Those that heard marveled/wondered/were amazed. (18)

Mary kept and pondered in her heart. (19)

Shepherds returned to flocks—glorifying and praising—Heard and seen—as told them. Focus is on what they were told. They cannot get over what they were told and that they were told it and then saw it with their own eyes. (20)

Purification/Circumcision/Name/Holy/Sacrifice

Eight days—Circumcision—Named Jesus—As told by angel. (21)

Mary's purification—Males belonged to Jehovah—Sacrifice required. (22-24)

A lamb was the sacrifice with a bird, but doves or pigeons were the sacrifice of the poor. (24—Lev 12:6)