



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: Proclaimed

Sermon Title: "The Birthday of the King"

Passage: Luke 2:1-7

Connection to Luke 2

Luke connects the announcements from chapter one to the fulfillment in chapter two of the birth of the Messiah by first noting the reason for the journey (a registration for a census) and then describing the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem at the appointed time.

Introduction/Opening

Timing can make or break a joke. Timing is important in athletics; the quarterback must throw the ball in a certain number of steps for some plays to work. One musician being just a little off in his or her timing will all but destroy the sound of an orchestra. Regarding the coming of the Messiah, the timing was perfect and all in accord to an eternal plan.

Outline

The conception of the Messiah was miraculous. His birth was a normal human birth. Millard J. Erickson said, "The birth in Bethlehem, although under somewhat remarkable circumstances, was nonetheless a normal human delivery."¹ However, it is clear the sovereign hand of God moved in the affairs of men to bring history to this point. In Luke 2:1-3, Luke notes that Caesar Augustus enacted a registration. Could this not have been done years earlier or years later? Of course from a human perspective it could, but not from the divine perspective.

1. The Timing of His Birth.

Paul noted in Galatians 4:4 that "the time came to completion." What important characteristics of history were present?

- a) It was a time of universal peace known as the *Pax Romana*.
- b) It was a time of universal language. Greek was the common language known as Koine.
- c) It was a time of universal travel. The Romans built an extensive highway system.

Everything was in place for the spread of the gospel. At that moment in history, the Messiah entered human life.

1. Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998), 723.

2. The Place of His Birth.

Micah prophesied this location, Bethlehem, in Micah 5:2 in the eighth century BC. The city was David's city, and Joseph was a descendant of David. This was not a happenstance choice on the part of Joseph and Mary. The town was chosen in the plan of God in eternity past.

3. The Event of His Birth speaks to the character of Jesus.

His character is evident in that He came in obedience and humility. One only need to review Philippians 2:6-7 to confirm this truth. Robert H. Stein noted: "The irony of the most important event in history taking place in a manger should not be lost sight of; it reveals how God elevates the lowly and humble and rejects the proud and mighty of this world."²

Conclusion

Luke recorded Mary's response to everything that had transpired, noting that she treasured up all these things in her heart and meditated on them (Luke 2:19). Perhaps that is the wisest response to this good news. Those who have heard the gospel and on whom His favor rests should treasure up the treasure of grace and meditate on the good news. The good news was that the only One who could heal the painful problem of humanity had arrived on the scene. The arrival was not of a political leader, an educator, or a philosopher. The problem was not government. The problem was not ignorance. The problem was not a lack of wisdom. This was the arrival of the Savior because the problem that needed to be solved was the problem of sin.

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2. Robert H. Stein, *The New American Commentary: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*, ed. David S. Dockery, vol. 24, *Luke* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1992), 107.