

Luke 2:1–7 *And it came to pass in those days* [the days after John the Baptist was born], *that there went out a decree* [a command] *from Caesar Augustus* [the Emperor of the Roman world], *that all the world should be taxed.* ²*(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)* ³*And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city* [the city that the family's ancestors came from]. ⁴*And Joseph also went up¹ from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)* ⁵*To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.* ⁶*And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered* [that she went into the pre-birth pains of labor]. ⁷*And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes* [a linen baby blanket], *and laid him in a manger* [similar to a cattle trough]; *because there was no room for them in the inn.* ⁸*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.* ⁹*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.* ¹⁰*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

I. Introduction

- A. God moves in the events of nations
- B. God moves in the hearts of rulers
- C. God orchestrates Christians' life
- D. Three lessons to learn from Christmas story

II. God rules in the affairs of men ☐

- A. God managed all life events to have Jesus born in Bethlehem

Galatians 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time was come* [when God had prepared the world the way He wanted it to be], *God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

- B. Politics of Israel

1. Rome invited into Jewish politics in 63 AD
2. Herod the Great ruled Israel as puppet kingdom of Rome
3. Rome wanted Israel as land bridge between Egypt & Greece to bring wheat to Rome

¹ The term "...went up..." is in reference to elevation, not the direction on a map. Judea is up ~ 2500 feet above Galilee, but is south (down) on a modern, north-at-the-top map.

C. Human parents of Jesus

1. Joseph direct descendent of King David & Bathsheba through King Solomon
2. Mary descendent of King David & Bathsheba from his son Nathan
3. They were poor people
4. They obeyed the Roman government and registered for a taxation census
5. They made a bed for the newborn Jesus in the manger in a stable

III. God works all things together for good ☐

A. Angel brings good news of great joy to all people

1. Shepherds in fields around Bethlehem
2. Shepherds at the bottom of economic ladder
3. This showed that Jesus made available to all people

B. God used the Roman taxation to move many people to their ancestral cities so Jesus could be born in Bethlehem

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose [to those who God has chosen to obey His will].

IV. God brings good news to all people ☐

A. Shepherds saw baby Jesus

B. Shepherds shared angel's message to all

C. They glorified & praised God

V. Conclusion ☐

A. Reflect that King David himself was a shepherd in Bethlehem

B. Reflect on the good news that the Savior Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem

C. Reflect on confessing the Savior before people

Luke 12:8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me [Jesus] *before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:*