

JOURNEYS OF COURAGE

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | DECEMBER 15, 2024

Text: Luke 2:1-6; Matthew 2:3

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, 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. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Beth-lehem; (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." (Luke 2:1-6)

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." (Matthew 2:3)

INTRODUCTION

- first comprehensive empire taxation imposed by Emperor Augustus in late 1st century BCE
 - * Emperor Augustus completely revised previous Roman tax codes
 - * secular history in accord with Lk 2:1 about "all the world should be taxed" - true in Roman world
 - * taxation also involved people census
 - * taxation based on personal assets
- Luke writes of political government
 - * Herod king of Judea (Lk 1:5)
 - * Caesar Augustus (Lk 2:1)
 - * Quirinus governor of Syria (Lk 2:2)

human plans

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." (James 4:13-15)

- At the end of 2019, no one could have predicted a Corona Covid virus pandemic
- At end of 2021, no one could have predicted Russia invading Ukraine in late 2022
- Neither Gaza attack on Israel late 2023

Quote: "Man proposes: God disposes."

1. JOURNEY OF Provision (Luke 2)

A. Of obedience (v. 1-5)

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, 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. 4 And Joseph also went up 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." (Luke 2:1-5)

Mary heavy with child

close to due date

TO THE LAW

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." (Romans 13:1-2)

government allowed by God's provision

- for sake of conscience

- even Jesus paid taxes

"Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour." (Romans 13:5-7)

- given to person holding office

BY FAITH

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" (2 Corinthians 5:7)

B. Of prophecy

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:6-7)

over crowded town

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

where? in Bethlehem

(Mt 2:2, 5-6)

Quote: "Mary accompanied Joseph for several reasons."

"Both of them knew that the Child was the Messiah. They also would have known that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem." (Micah 5:2)

2. JOURNEY OF Dedication (Luke 2:21-30)

A. Declaration of His Name (v. 21)

angel Gabriel gave name to Mary before conception

"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb." (Luke 2:21)

AT CIRCUMCISION - name given at 8 days

NAMED ACCORDING TO PROPHECY GIVEN TO JOSEPH

name of Jesus very important

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)

B. Dedication of the Firstborn (v. 22-24)

1st born male opening womb redeemed of all humans - first born male animal sacrificed to God

"And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)" (Luke 2:22)

"And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:24)

THE PURIFICATION CEREMONY

THE REDEMPTION OF THE FIRSTBORN MALE

"Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the Lord, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem. 16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs." (Numbers 18:15-16)

c. Pedication Blessing (v. 25-32)

"And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 31 or mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."
(Luke 2:25-32)

Messiah
Consolation
of Israel
Lord's
Christ }
God's
salvation.

BY A SPIRIT-LED MAN

WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."
(1 John 4:10)

Messiah
God's
sacrifice

3. JOURNEY OF Protection

(Matthew 2:3, 12-23)

A. Protection from His Enemies

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." (Matthew 2:3)

troubled
King?
troubled
city

Quote: "The reason for this agitation of the people was not far to seek."

FROM THE DEVIL

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men."
(Matthew 2:16)

Murder of
the ~~Emper~~
Innocents

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
(1 Peter 5:8)

- King Herod the Great murdered 3 of his own sons
- Caesar Augustus quoted as saying, "It is better to be Herod's pig than his son."
*unclean pig would not get touched

Protection:
FROM THE WORLD

6 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

1. Pray for Your Children
2. Teach Them in Word
Deuteronomy 6:6
3. Teach Them in Example
"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6)
4. Remove Ungodly Influences
5. Be Faithful to Church
6. Consider Christian Education

B. Obeying the Revelation

THE WAY TO EGYPT

"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13) *run to safety in Egypt*

Quote: "Where God guides, He provides!"

THE WAY HOME

"19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life."" (Matthew 2:19-20) *return home to Israel*

CONCLUSION

- Chronological history of Jesus ministry
- * Lk 3:23 Jesus begins His ministry baptized by John the Baptizer about 30 years old (Lk 3:23)
- * John the Baptist ministry began (Lk 3:1-2)
 - + 15th year of reign of Tiberius Caesar
 - + Pontius Pilate governor of Judea
 - + Herod (Antipas) tetrarch of Galilee
 - + brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea & Trachonitus
 - + Lysanius tetrarch of Abilene
 - + Annas & Caiaphas high priests in Jerusalem

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" (Hebrews 10:12)

God's sacrifice

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

angel announces birth of Jesus

Cesar Tiberius 15th year AD 28-29
Pontius Pilate in Judea AD 26-37
Herod Antipas in Galilee BCE 4-39 AD
Philip in Iturea BCE 4-34 AD
Lysanius in Abilene (28-29 AD ??)
in known history BCE 40-36
- executed by Romans in 36 BCE
- a son ruling in AD 28-29?