

CHRISTMAS SERIES
“THE UNFOLDING TESTAMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST”
PART ONE
“THE TESTAMENT OF THE LORD’S BIRTH”
LUKE 2:1-7

INTRO: During the Christmas Season, those of us who are believers in Jesus Christ will spend a lot of time around the church singing Christmas Carols and reading scriptures about the His Birth, which is good. But in doing so, we often become very familiar with the songs and the scriptures that we overlook some of the fine details of the narrative of Christ’s birth, to the point that we miss out on a blessing and perhaps will even miss out on honoring God as we should. So today we are going to begin a 4-part Christmas series that will be filled with a lot of familiar verses of scripture about the birth of Jesus Christ so that we can rehearse and review in our spiritual thinking the facts that changed the everlasting history of the universe from the divine perspective. The series title is: **“THE UNFOLDING TESTAMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.”** This series will basically be a study of the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Today we are going to begin by noting **“THE TESTAMENT OF THE LORD’S BIRTH.”**

NOTE: In Luke chapter 2, we have the record of the time of the birth of Jesus Christ until he was presented in the temple at the Passover at the age of 12. There is a lot we can learn about Christ in this chapter of God’s Word.

AN OVERVIEW OF LUKE 2:1-7

- 1) Vs. 1 - The Decree of Caesar Augustus, who ruled from 27BC to 14 AD, in which he called for the whole Roman world to go through a census.
- 2) Vs. 2 – Cyrenius was the governor of Syria – 4 BC to 1 AD.
- 3) Vs. 3 – All the legal citizens went to their hometowns to take the census.
- 4) Vs. 4 – Under the Sovereignty of God (to fulfill Micah 5:2), Joseph and Mary returned to their hometown of Bethlehem to take the census. They no doubt knew of Micah’s prophesy and were thrilled to see how God was bringing it together through the decree of Caesar.
- 5) Vs. 5 – The trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem was 70 miles through dangerous mountainous terrain that would take two days by horse and 17 days to walk.
- 6) Vs. 6 – The Pre-ordained time of Christ’s birth came to pass once they reached Bethlehem (Note Galatians 4:4)
- 7) Vs. 7 – Mary brought forth her **FIRST-BORN SON**. In addition to Jesus, Mary had 4 other sons and at least 2 daughters (Note Mark 6:3).
 - Jesus was wrapped in **swaddling clothes** – soft strips of cloth for bodily protection – which was a middle east tradition at the time.
 - Jesus was laid in a **manger** – Probably in a cave with the manger carved out of rock.
 - There was **no room for Jesus in the Inn** - which illustrated the great humility of Christ’s incarnation (Note Philippians 2:5-10).

THE BIBLICAL PRESENTATIONS OF THE LORD’S BIRTH

I. THE LORD’S BIRTH WAS PREDICTED

- A. In Isaiah 7:14 – 742 B.C.
 - The fact that He would be born of a virgin and was fulfilled according to Matthew 1:18-25.
- B. In Isaiah 9:6,7 – 740 B.C.
 1. His Person Predicted – Vs. 6
 - a. “Wonderful” – Both His Name and a Description – “Paw-Law” - **“DISTINGUISHED MIRACLE WORKER.”**
 - b. “Counselor” – “Yaw-Ats’ “**“DELIBERATE GUIDE”**
 - c. “Mighty God” – “El Gibbor” **“THE ONE WITH ALL POWER”**
 - d. “Everlasting Father – “Avi-Ad” **“FATHER/CREATOR OF ALL THINGS”**
 - e. “Prince of Peace – “Sar Sharlohim” **“PROVIDER OF ULTIMATE PEACE”**
2. His Power Predicted – Vs. 7 (To be fulfilled in the Millennium)
 - a. He Will be Peaceful – **WILL BRING PEACE ON EARTH**
 - b. He Will be Purposeful – **WILL RULE WITH JUDGMENT AND JUSTICE**

II. THE LORD'S BIRTH WAS PRESENTED

- A. Presented to Joseph – Matthew 1:23
- B. Presented to Mary – Luke 1:30-38

III. THE LORD'S BIRTH WAS PERFORMED – Vs. 7

- A. As God Planned (In Bethlehem in a manger)
- B. As God Purposed (In the Fulness of the Time – Galatians 4:4)

IV. THE LORD'S BIRTH PROCLAIMED

- A. By the Shepherds – Luke 2:17 – **“THEY MADE KNOWN ABROAD”**
 - To show the humble service of Christ
- B. By Simeon – Luke 2:25-35 – **A JUST AND DEVOUT MAN**
 - 1. He Proclaimed Jesus Christ as Savior – Vs. 30
 - 2. He Proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Light – Vs. 32a
 - 3. He Proclaimed Jesus Christ as Glory – Vs. 32b
 - 4. He Proclaimed Jesus Christ as a Sign – Vs. 34
- C. By Anna – Luke 2:36-38
 - She Proclaimed Jesus Christ as the Redeemer

LESSON/APPLICATION

THROUGH THE RECORD GIVEN ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE WHATSOEVER WHO HE WAS AND WHAT HE CAME TO DO. AS IN THE TIME OF HIS BIRTH OUR RESPONSE SHOULD BE:

- 1) TO WORSHIP HIM FOR WHO HE IS
- 2) TO PROCLAIM HIM FOR WHO HE IS