

Christmas:

What Happened & Why?

Luke 1 & 2

Luke 2:1 - 6

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

Luke 2:7

7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in *SWADDLING CLOTHS*, and laid Him in a *MANGER*, because there was no room for them in the *INN*.

Luke 2:8 - 12

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to ALL people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: YOU will find a Babe wrapped in *SWADDLING CLOTHS*, lying in a *MANGER*.”

Luke 2:13 - 18

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying 14 “Glory to God in the highest, *AND ON EARTH PEACE*, goodwill toward men!” 15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 *AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE* and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Mishnah & The Temple Shepherds

- Temple flocks; Temple shepherds.
- Priestly shepherds who kept flocks for temple services.
- Passover Lambs; *'without spot or blemish'*
- Bethlehem was sanctioned as the location of certified sacrificial lambs.
- They watched flocks 24/7.

Migdal Eder: 'Tower of the Flock'

- This cave was where temple shepherds would bring Ewes to Lamb in safety.
- It was considered 'Holy' and kept ritually clean.
- On the outskirts of Bethlehem, directly on the way to Jerusalem.

Micah 4:8

“And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; ***THE KINGDOM SHALL COME*** to the daughter of Jerusalem.”

Church Fathers:

- **Justin the Martyr (Apologist) (100 AD).**
 - His writings contain, and apparently used to personally recommend going to *'The cave where Christ was born.'*
- **Tertullian**
- **Church Father Jerome**
 - Considered the most learned of all the Latin Fathers. He translated the Bible into Latin. He wrote, *"... belonging now to us... in the cave where once the infant Christ cried."*

Luke 1:46 - 50

And Mary said:

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowly state of His
maidservant;

For behold, henceforth all generations will call me
blessed.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His name.

And His mercy is on those who fear Him
From generation to generation.”

Luke 1:51

***“HE HAS SHOWN STRENGTH WITH
HIS ARM;***

**He has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.”**

‘Arm’ *Brachion*

John 12:38 (Is 53)

“Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the *ARM* of the Lord been revealed.”

Acts 13:17 - 18

“Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: The God of this people, chose our fathers and *EXALTED* the people when they *DWELT AS STRANGERS* in the land of Egypt, and with *AN UPLIFTED ARM* He brought them out of it.”

Ps 40:2

“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”

In the Garden

The heart / nature of man was changed:

- Our spirit died
- Self was born

“I can, on my own merit, on my own actions - I can face death...”

- Righteousness, right standing with God, does not come through anything we can do with the strength of our own arm.**
- No one in the natural can pick themselves up by their own arm!**

Luke 1:51

**“He has shown strength with His arm;
*HE HAS SCATTERED THE PROUD IN
THE IMAGINATION OF THEIR
HEARTS.”***

Rom 4:3 - 6

“For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. ***BUT TO HIM WHO DOES NOT WORK BUT BELIEVES*** on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works.”

- **The gospel is the declaration of a victory won, we are not subject to slavery.**
- **Those who heard the news, did nothing to earn that victory, yet they were free.**

Jesus was born, as the right arm of God, to exalt, TO LIFT US OUT of working hard all our life simply to earn the WAGE of death, but rather the GIFT of life through Jesus Christ.