

In Bethlehem
Luke 2:1-7 (12/27/09 AM)

1. Jesus Was Born at the Preordained Time (1)

Not a Chance of Fate

“And it came to pass” means “to come to be, to happen”. It does not mean that it just happened.

• **God brought about the _____ time when His Son would be born**

Galatians 4:4, “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.”

The word for time here is *chronos*. It means a succession of moments.

Daniel 9:25, “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.”

• **God brought about the decreed _____ into which His Son would be born**

Palestine was under the rule of the Roman Empire. Rome is the fourth kingdom of Daniel’s prophecies (Daniel 2, 7, & 9).

With the reign of Augustus Caesar, the longest, bloodiest civil war in Rome’s history had finally ended. Over 100 years of civil war had

been brought to rest and Rome had vastly extended her boundaries.

Augustus brought in a great time of peace and prosperity, making Rome a safe place to live and travel. This introduced a period called “Pax Romana” peace of Rome. God was preparing the way for the Gospel of Christ to be taken throughout the world.

**_____ Was Practiced by the Romans
not the Jews**

2. Jesus Was Born at the Propheted Place (1-5)

A Biblically Significant Place

Micah 5:2, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One

to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Bethlehem was the place where Jacob’s wife Rachael

died and was buried. Matthew recalls this when he records the slaying

of the innocent male children by Herod, Matthew 2:16-18. Naomi and

Ruth came to Bethlehem where Ruth met Boaz and they were married. Ruth, a Moabite, is listed in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:5. Bethlehem means “House of Bread”.

• **The _____ of God brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem**

Critics attacked Luke’s account saying that there was no census by Quirinius and that people did not have to go to their ancestral home. Archeological discoveries have all proved Luke to be accurate.

Bethlehem was the place of David’s birth which was part of the human reason Jesus was born there. Mary is still referred to as Joseph’s “betrothed wife”. Matthew’s Gospel tells us that Joseph “took to him

his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn

Son. And he called His name Jesus”, Matthew 1:24-25. Joseph had

taken Mary into his home but they did not consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born. God orchestrated the historical conditions

to bring the time, the people and the place together.

God Is _____ in People’s Live This Way

3. Jesus Was Born According to Predestined Circumstances (6-7)

His Birth Is a Picture of Humility

God knew that this story would be told and retold. Luke got his details from Mary's eyewitness report. God however is the One who determined the essential details for us to know. Nothing in this account is incidental.

• **That Jesus came as a _____**

God brought His Son into the world through physical birth. This was the message the angels announced to the shepherds. Luke 2:11, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

We Are Born Sinners, Christ Was Born to Be Our _____

• **That Jesus was wrapped in _____ of cloth**

These were used to bind the baby tightly to protect him. It was also believed to strengthen the child's limbs. It symbolically pictures His condescension.

Philippians 2:5-7, "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation,

taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."

He emptied Himself of the outward expression of His Deity, namely His glory. Jesus laid aside the independent use of His attributes.

No attribute changed only the manifestation was changed. He is God in human flesh, the flesh of a baby.

The Humility of the Story _____ the Humility of the Savior

• **That Jesus was laid in a _____**

The manger pictures the reason for His birth. A manger is no place for a baby but a perfect place for a lamb. He came to offer Himself as the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

Isaiah 53:7, "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."

Throughout the Book of Revelation Jesus is referred to as "the lamb". Revelation 5:12, "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain". At the end of

the book God announces that the only people who will inherit eternal life are "only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life", Revelation 21:27.

Jesus Christ Is the _____ Sacrifice for Our Sins

1 Peter 1:18-20, "...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."