

## “You Will Find” - Luke 2:1-15

Ask - What is the true meaning of Christmas?

Background - The beautiful account recorded in Luke 2:1-20 is one of the most well-known and beloved passages of scripture in the entire Bible. My family, as well as many others from generation to generation, reads this story every year at Christmas. As we study it again in today's lesson, may I wish you and yours and Merry Christmas!

“The Savior's Birth” - Luke 2:1-7

(v1-3) What took place within the Roman Empire that compelled every citizen to return to their hometown? Who issued this decree? What do we know about Caesar Augustus?

(v4-5) Where did Joseph and Mary live at the time the decree was issued? Where were they required to go? What was the nature of their relationship? Describe Mary's condition.

(v6-7) What happened while they were in Bethlehem? Describe the circumstances of and the setting in which she gave birth? What does the nativity scene mean to you? Discuss.

FOLLOWING CAESAR'S DECREE, JOSEPH AND MARY WENT TO BETHLEHEM TO BE REGISTERED. WHILE THEY WERE THERE, SHE GAVE BIRTH TO THE BABY JESUS.

“The Angel's Announcement” - Luke 2:8-12

(v8) Who does this verse speak about? What was the social status of shepherds in this day? What were they doing and what time was it?

(v9-11) Who appeared to the shepherds and what was their initial reaction? What good news did the angel declare to the shepherds? How did the angel identify the newborn child? To whom was he given?

(v12) What sign(s) were given to the shepherds to help them find this newborn child? What are swaddling clothes and what is a manger?

AN ANGEL APPEARED TO SHEPHERDS WHO WERE WATCHING THEIR FLOCKS AT NIGHT AND TOLD THEM THAT THE SAVIOR HAD BEEN BORN.

“The Shepherd's Response” - Luke 2:13-15

(v13) Who suddenly appeared with the messenger angel? What did these who

appeared do?

(v14) What did the heavenly host say? Talk about the meaning of their words. What Christmas hymns do you know that echo their praise?

(v15) After the angels departed, what did the shepherds say and do? What lesson can we learn from their response?

A HEAVENLY HOST CELEBRATED THE LORD'S BIRTH AND THE SHEPHERDS HURRIED TO BETHLEHEM TO FIND THE NEWBORN BABY.

Application - God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born of the virgin Mary that He might save mankind from their sin. Jesus was born in a stable and visited first by lowly shepherds. The quiet and humble circumstances of His birth indicate His access to all - even the forgotten, poor, and overlooked. As a human being, having taken on flesh, the man Jesus identified with us and became an acceptable sacrifice for our atonement. Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive. Praise Him like the angels did on the night of His birth!