

A Humble Birth for Our Mighty Savior

December 8, 2024 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

A Little Historical Background:

Caesar Augustus was a _____ ruler who ultimately did what God _____.

Jesus Christ was a _____ shepherd who was destined to _____ His people.

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to 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, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What do you know about the details of the events surrounding your birth?

Read & Discuss: Luke 2:1-7

1. In verses 1-2 Luke describes some specific historical events. What do these details tell us about the political and social climate at the time of Jesus' birth? Some historians challenge the timeline that Luke presents here. How do you think we should respond to apparent discrepancies between what the Bible says and what some historians might suggest?
2. Verses 3-4 tells us that everyone went to their own town to register, including Joseph with Mary. What challenges might Joseph and Mary have faced on their own 90-mile journey to Bethlehem and what might they have felt as they made this trip (v. 4)?
3. **Read Micah 5:2.** It's possible that Mary and Joseph knew of this verse in Micah. If so, how might their awareness of this prophecy have shaped their thoughts and emotions as they journeyed? How does hearing of God fulfilling prophecies like this impact your faith in God as you navigate daily life?
4. We learn in verse 6 that "while they were there, the time came for [Mary] to give birth." What do you imagine Joseph and Mary might have been feeling as Mary gave birth under these circumstances? What does this verse tell us about God's ability to perfectly time events according to His purposes?
5. It's reasonable to assume that their journey to Bethlehem and Jesus' birth there were not what Joseph and Mary had earlier anticipated for their lives. How do you typically respond to things happening in a way other than what you hoped or planned? Can you share a time when things didn't go as you hoped or planned but could later see how things actually worked out in a way that proved God's plans and timing were better than your own?
6. Verse 7 describes Jesus' birth in humble circumstances. What message do you think God was sending by having His Son born in such a way? How does Jesus' humble birth reflect His later teachings and actions? What lessons can we draw from the humility of Jesus' birth for our own lives?
7. What does the incarnation of Christ—God becoming man—mean for our understanding of God's relationship with humanity? What implications does the incarnation have for how we live out our faith and relate to others?

Apply: How can the story of Jesus' humble birth inspire you to live out your faith in practical ways this week?

Pray: Ask God to help us follow Jesus' example of humility. Pray that we will serve others with love and grace, while always moving through life confident that God is working all things according to His purposes.