

Jesus Was Born for You!

Monday, 12/25 – 10 AM

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2018

2018 Divine Services – Join Us: 12/30 at 10; 12/31 at 6

2019 Divine Services: Sundays 8 & 10:45 and Mondays 7 PM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **Merry Christmas!** Today is the conclusion of *The Bethlehem Series!* This is a summary of the first four parts:

- ➔ **Part 1** was called Bethlehem Basics: It included ♦Bible appearances of the word *Bethlehem*, ♦the meaning of the word *Bethlehem*, ♦various names used for *Bethlehem*, and ♦the modern day city of *Bethlehem*.
- ➔ **Parts 2 and 3** focused on the book of Ruth: The book ♦began and ended in Bethlehem, and ♦helps us see – *from the time of Joshua* – how the earlier descendants of our Savior were from Bethlehem.
- ➔ **Part 4** showed God’s grand plan for His Son to be born in Bethlehem: It ♦began with Adam and Eve, ♦continued with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ♦touched on the book of Ruth connection, ♦explained David’s connection to Bethlehem, ♦touched on the Micah prophecy of the Savior’s birth being in Bethlehem, and ♦got into the first part of Luke chapter 2 – which included *the registration decreed by Caesar Augustus and Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem*.

Now, in **part 5**, we come to ♦the Savior’s birth in *Bethlehem*, ♦the announcement by an angel, and ♦the shepherd’s visit.

1. **The Savior’s Birth in Bethlehem:** ^{ESV} **Luke 2:6** And while they [Joseph and Mary] were there [in Bethlehem], the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son

[implying that later she had other children; see Mark 6:3] **and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**

- a. Travel comparison: Let's compare the traveling of **Joseph and Mary** with **the President of the United States**: Joseph and Mary were on their own, *though possibly traveling with others they knew who were on their way to Bethlehem*. For the President: **his motorcade has 40 to 50 vehicles and over 100 people**; **when on a helicopter, there are 5 others to keep people guessing which one he is in**; and **when on Air Force One, the cost is about \$200,000 per hour**.¹
- b. Why was there no room in the inn? Even though it seems impossible to know for sure, Jesus may have been born in September, *possibly when the OT Feast of Sukkot, a.k.a. Tabernacles, was taking place in Jerusalem*; if so, the overflow crowds would have spilled over into nearby Bethlehem, *thus no room in the inn* (a September birth also ties in with John, who was six months older than Jesus, being born in the spring, at the time of the Passover). Another reason for *no room in the inn* could be due to the many travelers in connection with the required registration.

2. **The Announcement by an Angel:**

- a. Shepherds: **⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field [just outside of Bethlehem], keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.** // Why announce to the shepherds? They were unimportant people, *yet the Savior came for everyone – from the lowest to the highest!* Their fear from the angel appearance and the Lord's glory is normal and natural.

¹ <https://foxtrotalpha.jalopnik.com/why-it-costs-the-president-2-614-per-minute-to-travel-1792355434>

Also, since the angel appeared at night, *we can conclude that Jesus was born at night!*

b. Angel:

- i. ¹⁰ **And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. //** Since fear causes a person to *draw back*, the angel said, “**Fear not**” or *draw near and be curious* – because I have good news to share with you, *and this good news is for everyone!*
- ii. ¹¹ **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” //** The angel said many important things regarding the Savior – *who is needed by all because all have sinned*: ➔He was born today; ➔He was born for you; ➔He was born in “*the city of David*” – *thus in Bethlehem*; and ➔He is wrapped up and lying in a manger, so, when you see such a baby, *you will know that He is Christ the Lord!*

3. **The Gloria in Excelsis:** That means “Glory to God in the highest!” 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 among those with whom he is pleased!” //** To really get the impact of that scene, let us realize that the angels witnessed ♠God creating, ♠mankind falling, and ♠God promising the Christ; and then, *for 4,000 years*, those angels waited; and then, outside of Bethlehem, *they glorified God for finally fulfilling His promise to remove our sin and restore our relationship with Him!* Since we are the beneficiaries, *let us greatly glorify God!!!*

4. **The Shepherds Visit:**

- a. They decided: ¹⁵ **When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go**

over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” // The shepherds did not doubt; instead, they **believed** the angel, **knew** the message was from the Lord, and **wanted** to see the Christ Child for themselves!

- b. **They found:** ¹⁶ **And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.** // *Can you imagine the excitement of those lowly shepherds!* The angel appeared TO THEM, and the Savior born was FOR THEM! When, *by God’s grace*, we truly grasp the power of our sin to eternally condemn us; then, **and only then**, *will we long for Jesus who eternally saved us!*
- c. **They told:** ¹⁷ **And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.** ¹⁸ **And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.** ¹⁹ **But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.** // So the shepherds **heard** the message, **saw** the Savior, and **told** others the good news! Even as we have seen with the eyes of faith, so let us **rejoice that we are saved** and **share the good news with others!**
- d. **They glorified:** ²⁰ **And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.** // The shepherds had been low, *but God lifted them up*; the shepherds had been full of fear, *but God filled them with joy*; the shepherds may have been quiet, *but God gave them much to say about their Savior!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, when we were without you, we *were doomed*; but now, knowing of Your work and trusting in You as our Savior, *we are so blessed!* Now, *going forward in our lives*, help us to reflect You – *the True Light of the world* – to others!

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