

Thoughts on Christmas – Luke 2:1-14

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 Cyrenius 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.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, 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.

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.

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."

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!"

There are some things that do not really matter:

- It does not matter whether the first Christmas was in 5 BC or 2 BC.
- It does not matter if it was in the winter or the spring.
- It does not matter if our Christmas programs or Manger Scenes have both shepherds and wisemen at the manger even though the wisemen came about a year later.
- It does not matter if we have wisemen wearing Arab clothing and riding camels, which they didn't.

The main thing is that Jesus came and it happened. In verse six of the KJV, it reads, "the days were accomplished." This verse coincides with Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law," Some might call it the "zero hour."

Why did God send Jesus when He did? Why not earlier? Why not later? Here are four answers to those important questions:

1. The Romans ruled over Israel at the time. Rome had unified much of the world under its government, giving a sense of unity to the various lands. You could cross borders easily with no trouble. Since the empire was relatively peaceful, travel was possible, allowing

the early Christians to spread the gospel. The Romans built a road system second to none. Such freedom to travel would have been impossible a 100 yrs. earlier or a 100 yrs. later

2. While Rome had conquered militarily, Greece, their predecessor, had conquered the world culturally. A “common” form of the Greek language was the trade language, spoken throughout the empire, making it possible to communicate the gospel to many different people groups through one common language. When Greece ruled the world they made all the conquered nations learn Greek.
3. The fact that many false idols had failed to give them victory over the Roman conquerors, caused many to abandon the worship of those idols. At the same time, in the more “cultured” cities, the Greek philosophy and science of the time left others spiritually empty in the same way that atheism of still communist governments leaves a spiritual void today.
4. Finally, Christ came when He did in fulfillment of specific prophecy. Daniel 9:24-27 that is how the wise men knew when he was coming. The writings of Daniel centuries earlier had told when he was coming.

The main thing is that Jesus came and at the right time. In the Zero hour. Some lessons that we can learn here:

1. **God moves in the affairs of man.** Daniel say God rules over the kingdoms of the earth and gives them to whoever he wills. Caesar Augustus and Cyrenius thought they were in control, but God rules over all leaders.
2. **God uses his people.** I think the earthly hero of Christmas is Joseph. He took Mary in spite of the situation and what people would think. He listened to the angel and followed those instructions (Matthew 1:18-25). Then he moved when the angel of God spoke again when Herod was coming after them. He protected the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:13-15).
3. **God takes care of and provides for his people.** Joseph and Mary had to take Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod. How did they survive? What did they eat? Remember the wise men brought Gold, and Frankincense, and myrrh.
4. **In verse seven, “no place for them in the Inn.”** The world has never had room for Jesus. He came unto his own and his own received him not (John 1:11). People love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.
5. **In verses 10-11, Vs. 10 and 11, “Fear not...I bring good news of great joy...a Savior who is Christ the Lord. This is the real meaning of Christmas.**
6. **Finally notice the 1st three words of verse 14 – Glory to God.**