

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 2:1-14.**
- B. I remember fondly the very few episodes of You Are There. The show was a re-enactment of a famous event of history by which 20th century reporters would get the story first hand. It was very educational.
- C. This lesson will be to look and the people and events surrounding the birth of X. What person(s) or group(s) of people would you have liked to have been?
- D. The birth of X, according to Luke, and you are there!

## I. HIS BIRTH DREW **MARY AND JOSEPH TO BETHLEHEM.**

- A. Scripture text: **Lk. 2:1-7.**
- B. God's great plan in sending the Savior is being fulfilled.
- C. Rome took a census every 14 yrs., for both military and tax purposes, and each Jewish male had to return to the city of his fathers to record his name, occupation, property, and family.
- D. God had promised the following about the Savior:
  - 1. He would be a human not an angel (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 2:14,16,17).
  - 2. He would be a Jew and not a Gentile (Gen. 12:1-3; Num. 24:17).
  - 3. He would be from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Heb. 7:14).
  - 4. He would be from the family of David (2Sam. 7:1-17).
  - 5. He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14).
  - 6. He would be born in the town of Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2).
- E. By looking at all of this fulfilled prophecy, one can see that the birth of X is rich in OT prophecy. We must look at the prophecy given, and the prophecy fulfilled to have instruction, patience, encouragement, and hope (Rom. 15:4).
- F. The birth of X should draw us to God's plan, fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.

## II. HIS BIRTH DREW **THE ANGELS FROM HEAVEN.**

- A. Scripture text: **Lk. 2:8-14.**
- B. The heavenly announcement of Immanuel.
- C. The world needed some good news. Life was difficult at that time just as it is today. Taxes were high, morals were low, and the military state was in control. Roman law, Greek philosophy, and even the Jewish religion could not meet the needs of men's hearts. Then God sent His Son!
- D. The birth of X drew the angels from heaven with a message of peace and spiritual good.
- E. What kinds of good news to you need to hear?  
The Jewish word *shalom* means much more than a truce in the battles of life. It means well-being, health, prosperity, security, soundness, and completeness. It has more to do with character than circumstances.

## III. HIS BIRTH DREW **THE SHEPHERDS FROM THE FIELDS.**

- A. Scripture text: **Lk. 2:15-20.**
- B. The first announcement of the Messiah's birth was given to some anonymous shepherds. Why shepherds?
  - 1. Shepherds were great examples of lowliness and obedience.
  - 2. Shepherds were outcasts in Israel. Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them away from the temple for weeks at a time so that they could not be made clean. God doesn't call the rich and the mighty (1Cor. 1:26-29); He calls the poor and lowly (Lk. 1:51-53).

3. And shepherds are not easily fooled. They are practical men of the world who have little to do with fantasy. If they said that they saw angels and went and found the Messiah, then you could believe them.
4. For some reason, shepherds were not permitted to testify in court, but God used some humble shepherds to be the first human witnesses that the prophecy had been fulfilled and the Messiah had been born.
5. These shepherds are good examples for us to imitate today. They received by faith the message God sent them and then responded with immediate obedience. The verb found in 2:16 means "found after a search."
- C. Because He was born to us a Savior, how can we search out Jesus today?
  1. His teachings.
  2. His miracles.
  3. His prophecies about Himself.
  4. His death.
  5. His resurrection.
  6. His coming again.
- D. The birth of X should cause us to investigate Him, and become obedient believers.

#### IV. HIS BIRTH DREW HIS PARENTS TO OBEY THE LAW.

- A. Scripture text: Lk. 2:21-25,27.
- B. This shows the importance of keeping the commandments.
- C. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it (Mt. 5:17-18). Therefore, while on earth Jesus obeyed the commandments of the Law (Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 5:7-8). Circumcision was only the beginning. When Jesus was 40 days old, Mary and Joseph had to come to the temple for the purification rites as described in Lev. 12.
- D. The fact that Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law is an important part of His saving ministry:
  1. He was made under the Law (Gal. 4:4).  
...but He rejected the traditions of men (Mt. 15:6b-9).
  2. He obeyed God's Law perfectly (Jn. 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 2Cor. 5:21).  
...but He bore the curse of the Law for us (Gal. 3:13).
- E. We must keep the commandments of X (Jn. 15:10). Can you think of some ways that would make commandment keeping easier (1Jn. 5:4).
- F. The birth of X should cause us to see the importance of keeping the commandments.

#### V. HIS BIRTH DREW THE RELIGIOUS FAITHFUL.

- A. Scripture text: Lk. 2:25-35.
- B. The saying is true, "It's Who you know, not what you know."
- C. Simeon was waiting for the X child. He was part of the faithful remnant that was patiently awaiting the Messiah. The HS told Simeon that Jesus would come before he died.
- D. Notice four things about Simeon that should be a part of every Christian's life:
  1. He was righteous. We are made righteous by the blood of X.
  2. He was devout. Dedicated, sincere, and godly.
  3. He was patient. The "consolation of Israel" was the Messiah.
  4. He was full of the HS. The seal (or deposit) of our inheritance.
- E. The birth of X should cause us to be these four things as we serve God.

#### VI. HIS BIRTH DREW THE PROPHETS TO PREACH.

- A. Scripture text: Lk. 2:36-38; 3: 1-6.
- B. His birth is something worth telling others about.

- C. It is not uncommon in the Scriptures to see women who were prophetesses. In the OT there was Miriam, Deborah, Hulduh, Noadiah, and the wife of Isaiah. In the NT, Philip the evangelist, had four daughters, all of whom could prophesy.
- D. Times were very difficult for widows in the first century, Rome. There was no Social Security, welfare, food stamps, pensions, or life insurance. To survive, Anna completely devoted herself to sewing and worshipping God in the temple (2:37).
- E. But when the X appeared she had something to tell. Implicitly, the text says she left the temple and told everyone of the One who had come. This is what we as Xians need to do.
- F. Leave our church buildings after worship ready to tell everyone, who will listen, about Jesus.
- G. The birth of X is significant; we must tell others that the Savior has come.

## **CONCLUSION.**

- A. What have we seen about the birth of X as told in Luke, chapter 2? Five things:
  - 1. God's great plan in sending the Savior begins is being fulfilled (prophecy fulfilled).
  - 2. The heavenly announcement of Immanuel (it was good news).
  - 3. Great examples of lowliness and obedience (search out the Savior).
  - 4. This shows the importance of keeping the commandments.
  - 5. The saying is true, "It's Who you know, not what you know."
  - 6. His birth is something worth telling others about.
- B. We are not commanded in the NT to celebrate the birth of X like we are to celebrate the Lord's death in the LS.
- C. But the birth of X should make us different people. It should change our lives, just like it did to those we have studied about this evening.