

Morning Sermon Outline December 21, 2014

"The Birth of Jesus Christ" Luke 2:1-14

I. See God's decrees in action, moving God's Son to His proper birth place –

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, (Luke 2:4 NKJ)

¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11 NKJ)

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.*" (Micah 5:2 NKJ)

1. God decrees work behind the scenes, seemingly hiding behind the decrees of men –

^{NKJ} Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, (Luke 2:1-4 NKJ)

A. Augustus decrees and Joseph, pregnant Mary, and the KING of kings, in her womb, have to move –

B. The "decree" SEEMS to be advancing and solidifying Augustus' Kingdom

C. Augustus SEEMED to be the great one "Augustus" meaning Revered One, was a title reserved for gods.

Roman coins were inscribed with the words "Augustus our God"

His move "registered" :3 Augustus' subjects for paying taxes. These taxes were used for building roads, for establishing a postal system, they were meant (by Augustus) to advance his kingdom; but the same roads and postal system would be used by Paul as he worked to push Christ's Kingdom –

²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. (Ephesians 6:20 NKJ)

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2Corinthians 5:20-21 NKJ)

2. God's prophecies spoke of God's King –

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.*" (Micah 5:2 NKJ)

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.* (Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJ)

⁴⁴ "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." ⁴⁵ "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold-- the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure." (Daniel 2:44-45 NKJ)

A. Note how all three of the Scripture prophecies above speak of an eternal KING and Kingdom, Micah 5:2 mentions one coming from the eternal PAST, Isaiah 9 & Daniel 2 mention Kingdoms that seem to start in time but continue "forever."

B. Note the SURENESS that is communicated in these verses –

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7 NKJ)

The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure." (Daniel 2:45 NKJ)

II. See the Glory and Greatness of God Shining, in a way quite different than the glory of man –

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)

¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:11-14 NKJ)

1. Note the humility, seeming weakness and vulnerability of a baby, born in a conquered nation

2. Note He is seemingly unimportant and MISSED by MOST – and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)

⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJ)

3. Application – We think too much, that important events are displayed on the nightly news, they are things that happen in places like Washington, New York, London, Rome ---

Not places like North Port or Nazareth ... They are things accomplished by politicians not pastors or little ladies giving their two pennies – BUT GOD is different in what He notes -

^{NKJ} Luke 21:1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, ² and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. ³ So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; ⁴ "for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." (Luke 21:1-4 NKJ)

A. The things noticed by Christ, the widow "putting in two mites"

B. And by Angels - a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!"
God notices the things we do even in our little church!

III. See Important Truths in this passage taught about our LORD Jesus Christ –

1. What is told about in this passage is Good News –
¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. (Luke 2:10 NKJ)

2. Here is the announcement of a Savior –

¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, (Luke 2:11 NKJ)

²¹ "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21 NKJ)

¹⁰ "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ "This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone." ¹² "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12 NKJ)

3. Here is Christ, the anointed One – who is Christ (Luke 2:11 NKJ)

Prophet, Priest and King all rolled into ONE, filled with God's Spirit –
^{NKJ} Isaiah 11:1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:1-2 NKJ)

4. He is LORD –

¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11 NKJ)

A. He is to be obeyed –

⁴⁶ "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? (Luke 6:46 NKJ) (also see Luke 6:47-49)

B. He is to be honored with the highest praises –

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, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13-14 NKJ)

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