

Sermon Notes for Christmas morning 2005

“The Greatest Story Ever Told” – Luke 2:1-20

- I. The **History** behind Christmas – “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David;) Luke 2:1-4
- II. The **Mystery** surrounding Christmas – “To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.” Luke 2:5-6; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-22
- III. The **Deity** (Virgin Birth) revealed at Christmas – “And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7; Isaiah 9:6-9
- IV. The **Serenity** beautifying Christmas – Luke 2:8-14
 - **Attentive Shepherds** – “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” Luke 2:8
 - **Announcement of a Saviour** – “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:9-12
 - **Angelic Singing** – “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.”
 - **Anticipation of His Sovereignty** – “Saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men.” Luke 2:13-14
- V. The **Responsibility** growing from Christmas – Luke 2:15-20
 - To **see** for ourselves the truth of Christmas – “And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and **see** this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” Luke 2:15-16
 - To **share** near and far the Good News of Christmas – “And when they had seen it, **they made known abroad** the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” Luke 12:17-18
 - To **shine** the rest of our lives with the glory of Christmas – “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned **glorifying and praising God** for all the things that they had heard and seen as it was told unto them.” Luke 2:19-20; Revelation 22:1-5