

# Message Notes

## The Birth of the Savior

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

**Introduction** - *How fortunate are we to have the Gospel of Luke!*

### Today's Message

*The Dawn is here:*

*The Birth of the Savior of the World*  
Luke 2:1-7

### **The Background for the Birth**

Luke 2:1-3

*Who was Caesar Augustus?*

*What was the purpose of the census?*

### **The Journey**

Luke 2:4-5

*The actual journey*

*What is this "House of David" stuff?*

### **The Birth of the Savior of the World**

Luke 2:6-7

*No room at the Inn*

*Placed in a manger*

*Wrapped in cloths*

### **Other significances of the Incarnation**

Philippians 2:5-11

John 1:1-14

### **Gospel Application** - *Joy to the World!*

*Let earth receive her king!*

### **Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**

**Facts we learn about the birth of Jesus from  
Mark:**

**Facts we learn about the birth of Jesus from  
John:**

Facts we learn about the birth of Jesus from  
**Rest of New Testament:**

# Facts we learn about the birth of Jesus from Matthew:

- Mary and Joseph are to be married soon
  - Mary is a virgin, but pregnant
- Joseph found out about Mary's condition, and was going to divorce her quietly
- Angel intervenes, Joseph goes ahead and stays with her
  - Jesus born in Bethlehm
    - Visited by Magi
    - Herod tries to kill Jesus
  - Death of "Bethlehem brothers"

# Facts we learn about the birth of Jesus from Luke:

- Zechariah and Elizabeth are to be parents of John the Baptist
- Zechariah doesn't believe it - silent!
  - Mary is visited by an angel to announce her virgin pregnancy
  - Fulfills a whole bunch of OT prophecies
    - Mary does believe it
    - Mary visits Elizabeth
    - J the B leaps with joy
    - Mary rejoices in song
    - Zechariah rejoices in song
- Why Jesus was born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth
- Humble birth (manger, no room)
  - Shepherds get to hear first
- Presentation of Jesus at Temple
  - Simeon's response to Jesus
  - Simeon's prophecy about Jesus
  - Simeon's blessing to Mary
    - Mary/Joseph's response
  - Anna's prophecy about Jesus
    - The return to Nazareth
- The young Jesus (temple, growth)





ABSTINENCE



99.999%

EFFECTIVE





## Malachi 4:2

<sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name,  
the sun of righteousness will rise  
with healing in its wings.  
And you will go out and leap  
like calves released from the stall.



**Today's Message:**  
**The Dawn is Here:**  
*The Birth of the Savior of the World!*  
**Luke 2:1-7**

## Luke 2:1-7

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<sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

## **Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

<sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

## Luke 2:1-7

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



*The Creator had  
woven Himself  
a robe of virgin flesh.*

~ Paraphrase of Pestle on the Incarnation (1584–  
1654).

# *The Background for the birth*

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# *The Background for the birth*

## Who was Caesar Augustus?

### **Luke 2:1-3**

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The ancient historians tell us that Caesar Augustus was the great-nephew of Julius Caesar and was a born fighter who clawed his way to power by defeating Antony and Cleopatra and then, through the considerable genius and force of his person, gave the empire a solidness that was to endure for centuries. He was the first Caesar to be called “Augustus” when the Roman Senate voted to give him that title. Augustus means “holy” or “revered,” and up to that time the title was reserved exclusively for the gods. It was under Augustus’ rule that decisive strides were taken toward making the Caesars gods.



In fact, at about the same time Luke was writing these words, some of the Greek cities in Asia Minor adopted Caesar's birthday, September 23, as the first day of the New Year, hailing him as "savior." An inscription at Halicarnassus (birthplace of the famous Herodotus) even called him "savior of the whole world." Historian John Buchan records that when Caesar Augustus died, men actually "comforted themselves, reflecting that Augustus was a god, and that gods do not die." So the world had at its helm a self-proclaimed, widely accepted god and savior. Luke, the historian and theologian, wants us to see this as the tableau for understanding the coming of the real Savior. The contrast could not be greater.



~ R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth*, Preaching the Word, 81.

# *The Background for the birth*

What was the purpose of the census?

## **Luke 2:1-3**

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*Quiet he lies  
whose vigor hurled  
a universe. He sleeps  
whose eyelids have not  
closed before.*

*~ Luci Shaw, Listen to the Green, p. 66.*

**LIPPI, Fra Filippo, Nativity, 1467-69 Fresco Duomo, Spoleto**

# *The Journey*

## **Luke 2:4-5**

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# *The Journey*

The actual journey

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# Palestine

• Nazareth

Jerusalem

• Bethlehem



## Micah 5:2

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

Even if Joseph and Mary had a donkey (Luke does not say so), this was a long and hazardous journey for a heavily pregnant young woman. Since the two were not yet married, it is surprising that Mary came too rather than giving birth among her family in Nazareth. But it was symbolically important for the child to be born in the place where the Messiah was expected to be born (Matt. 2:4–6; John 7:42).



~ R. T. France, *Luke*, ed. Mark L. Strauss and John H. Walton, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013), 33.

# *The Journey*

What is this “house of David” stuff?

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## 2 Samuel 7:11b-13, 16

<sup>11b</sup>“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you... <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

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## **Isaiah 9:7**

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever...

*My mother groaned,  
my father wept.  
Into the dangerous  
world I leapt.*

~ Michael Mason, ed., *William Blake*, Oxford Authors Series, "Infant Sorrow" from "Songs of Innocence and Experience", p. 276.



**FRANCESCO DI GIORGIO MARTINI** *Nativity*,  
c. 1465 Panel, 23 x 22 cm Art Association Galleries, Atlanta

# *The Birth of the Savior of the World*

## **Luke 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

# *The Birth of the Savior of the World*

Her firstborn, a son

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# *The Birth of the Savior of the World*

## Wrapped in cloths

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# *The Birth of the Savior of the World*

## Placed in a manger

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## Luke 2:12

“This will be a sign to you:  
You will find a baby wrapped in cloths  
and lying in a manger.”

# *The Birth of the Savior of the World*

No room at the inn

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This is a story of contrasts. The imperial pomp and political dominance of Caesar Augustus contrast with the humble village home in which the new world ruler is born. He is born in the royal “city of David,” but he is there only as a visitor, without even a proper guest room.



~ R. T. France, *Luke*, ed. Mark L. Strauss and John H. Walton, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013), 33.

*The one who asked Job,  
“Where were you when I  
laid the earth’s  
foundation? Tell me, if  
you understand ... when  
I made the clouds its  
garment and wrapped it  
in thick darkness”  
(Job 38:4, 9) now himself  
lay wrapped in swaddling  
clothes.*

~ R. Kent Hughes

**FRANCESCO DI GIORGIO MARTINI**  
*Nativity*, c. 1465 Panel, 23 x 22 cm  
Art Association Galleries, Atlanta



*What else do we know about the Incarnation?*

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## **Philippians 2:5-11**

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## **Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



*It was clearly a leap down – as if the Son of God rose from his splendor, stood poised at the rim of the universe irradiating light, and dove headlong, speeding through the stars over the Milky Way to earth's galaxy, finally past Arcturus, where he plunged into a huddle of animals. Nothing could be lower.*

~ R. Kent Hughes

**FERRARI, Defendente**, *Nativity in Nocturnal Light*, 151  
Mixed technique on panel, 37 x 27 cm Museo Civico d'Arte Antica, Turin

# *What else do we know about the Incarnation?*

## **John 1:1-18**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

<sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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## **John 1:1-18**

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

# *What else do we know about the Incarnation?*

## **John 1:1-18**

<sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

# *What else do we know about the Incarnation?*

## **John 1:1-18**

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Lancelot Andrewes, who crafted much of the beautiful English in the *King James Version*, preaching before King James, Christmas Day 1608:

*“the Word without a word.”*

~ *Great Sermons on the Birth of Christ*, comp. Wilbur M. Smith (Natick, MA: W.A. Wilde Co., 1963), p. 140.



**ANGUIER, Michel**, *Nativity*, 1665-68 Marble, height 160 cm St Roch, Paris

# Gospel of Luke Application:

*Joy to the World!*

# Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

G. F. Handel, 1742

Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re-ceive her  
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav-ior reigns: let all their songs em-  
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions

King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room, and  
 play; while fields, and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re-  
 ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow far  
 prove the glo-ries of his righ-teous-ness and

heav'n and na-ture sing, and heav'n and na-ture  
 peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 wen-ders of his love, and won-ders of his  
 (1.) and heav'n and na-ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na-ture sing,  
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as, the curse is found.  
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.  
 heav'n and na-ture sing,

# Gospel of Luke Application:

*Joy to the World!*

*Let earth receive her king!*

# Gospel of Luke Application:

*Joy to the World!*

*Let earth receive her king!*

*Let every heart prepare him room!*

The Gospel of  
**LUKE**