

God Guides the Circumstances of Jesus' Birth (Luke 2:1-7)

The Circumstances Used to Fulfill Prophecy Regarding Jesus' Birth (1-5)

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, ⁵ to **be registered** with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

1. A Decree Is Given (1-2)

- _____ Did This Happen? *In those days (late 5 or early 4 B.C.)*
- _____ Happened? *A decree went out*
- _____ Gave the Decree? *From Caesar Augustus*
- _____ Did the Decree Impact? *All the world (Roman Empire)*
- _____ Did It Say? *Is to be registered*

2. Relocation Is Required (3-4)

- The Required _____: So all went to be registered
- The Required _____: Everyone to his own city
- The _____ of Joseph: From Nazareth to Bethlehem
 - Out of the city of Nazareth
 - From the region of Galilee
 - Into the region of Judea
 - To the city of David (Bethlehem)
- The _____ for Joseph's Relocation:
 - His being out of the location (house) of David
 - His being out of the lineage of David

3. Obedience Is Rendered (5)

- Joseph travels to be registered, as the _____ required
- Joseph brings his betrothed (→) wife, as his _____ required
- Joseph obeys in the midst of the _____ that life required
 - Mary was "being with child"
 - The scorn associated with this
 - Alteration of his livelihood and living quarters

4. Prophecies Are Fulfilled

Ruth 4:11 And all the people who *were* at the gate, and the elders, said, "*We are* witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

1 Sam 17:12 Now David *was* the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name *was* Jesse, and who had eight sons. And the man *was* old, advanced *in years*, in the days of Saul.

1 Sam 17:15 But David occasionally went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 "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."

Jeremiah 31:15 Thus says the Lord: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they *are* no more."

Matthew 2:4-6 ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ '*But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.*' "

John 7:42 Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"

The Event of Jesus' Birth (6-7)

⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 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.

1. The Timing (6)

- The _____ of their stay: *while they were there*
- The _____ were fulfilled of her birthing: Normal process; not urgent

2. The Birth (7)

- Her birthing: *She birthed the son of her, the first born*
- Her care:
 - She wrapped him in strips of cloth*
 - She laid him down in a feeding trough*
- Her reason: *There was being no place for them in the guest room*

Observations & Takeaways:

- Sovereignty: God _____ all of life's circumstances.
- Government: God _____ government to accomplish His work.
- Difficulty: God _____ difficulty in our lives to accomplish His work.
- Prophecy/Certainty: God _____ that prophecy will be fulfilled.