

LESSON 13 – THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CONTEXT...

WHO?

- Mary: a virgin from the family of King David
 - Joseph: a carpenter from Nazareth from the family of King David
 - Angel Gabriel and others
 - Magi: astrologers/wise men from the east (exact location and number unknown)
 - King Herod: Ruler of Judea, under Roman control, ruthless and power-hungry
- } Engaged = legally married

WHEN?

- During the reign of Caesar Augustus and governorship of Quirinius
- Jesus was born sometime around 3-2 B.C., the magi arrived about 2 years later.
- During Jesus' life there was a common language (Greek) and government (the Roman Empire) throughout the Mediterranean world

WHERE? – Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Egypt

1.) How would you answer someone who says that Jesus' birth is just a made up fairytale?

THE STORY

Luke 1:26-38

1.) Read 1:26-30. According to Gabriel why was Mary chosen to be the mother of God's Son?

2.) Read 1:34-37. How would Mary, a virgin, become pregnant with Jesus Christ?

3.) Read 1:38. How did Mary respond to this unbelievable promise?

Read Matthew 1:18-24

1.) How were Joseph and Mary told to name the baby? How is this a reminder of his life's mission?

2.) In the person of Jesus God himself lived among us as a human being. Thus, his other name:

Immanuel, which means: _____

Read: Luke 2:1-7

1.) How does this turn in world events show that our God is in control of history?

Read: Luke 2:8-20

- God wanted people to know that the Savior, who would bring peace between God and humanity, had been born, but his means of spreading the news were some poor and lowly shepherds. So he also uses unimpressive you and me to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Overview: Matthew 2

- Jesus Christ is the Savior of Jews and non-Jews alike. God put a special star in the sky to lead the magi to Jesus.

1.) How did Herod and the magi react differently to the news that the King of the Jews had been born?

a.) Herod –

b.) The magi –

LAW & GOSPEL

Where do we see God's law?

Where do we see the Gospel?

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

John 1:1-3a, 14 –

Psalms 145:13 –

Galatians 4:4-5 –

John 3:16 –

NEXT TIME... January 25th

- Read: Matthew 3:1-4:11; John 1:29-34 – The Baptism and Temptation of Jesus, complete reflection guide
- Memory Work:
 - Titus 3:5
 - Matthew 28:19
 - New Testament Books (through 2 Thessalonians)