

## The Birth of Jesus Christ: Luke 2:1-20

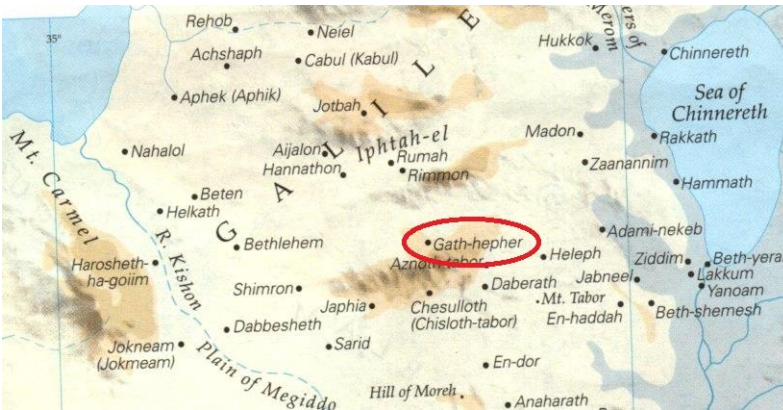
23 December 2022

**1-3** We see in these verses how God orchestrated events so that Caesar Augustus was in power to command the whole world to go home and be taxed.

- This placed Mary in Bethlehem, where the Messiah was prophesied to be born (Micah 5:2).
- Caesar Augustus is a type of Antichrist because the whole world was at “peace” under the rule of one wicked man.

**Vs 4** God chose Bethlehem as His Son’s birthplace.

- Bethlehem at that time had a reputation of being populated by heathen and half-breed Jews.
  - That’s why Nathanael said, **“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”** (John 1:46).
- That whole upper region of Samaria was despised by the *“godly Hebrews.”*
- Jesus would be born and raised under circumstances that would enable Him to identify with any situation you might find yourself in.
- Jesus’ birthplace is part of the **“Sign of the prophet Jonas.”** (Mt. 12:39, 16:4, Lk 11:29)
  - **“4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth.”**
  - Jonah was **“the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher”** (2 Kings 14:25).
    - Gath-hepher was located on the east side of the Sea of Chinnereth (Galilee) in Old Testament times.
    - Nazareth is located where Gath-hepher was, east of the Sea of Galilee.
      - Jesus and Jonah had the same hometown.



The time of Jonah



The time of Jesus

**Vs 5** Joseph obeyed the governing powers of that time (Rom 13:1, Luke 20:25) and received a great blessing. Many Christians object to paying taxes today, but they do it because it’s the law. If we obey the powers that be ordained of God, we’ll be giving unto God the things that are God’s.

**6-7** Mary **“brought forth her firstborn son.”** That implies that there were other sons to follow. The Bible presents us with documented facts that Mary was not a perpetual virgin (Matt 12:46, 13:55-56, Gal 1:19, Matt 1:25, Mark 6:3). Mary had at least six other children.

**“There was no room for them in the inn.”** —Our lives are so full of other things, other activities, and other people, that we leave no room for Jesus. We need to make room for Him.

**“And wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.”** Compare this to Luke 23:52-53 where Jesus’ body was wrapped in linen and laid in a borrowed sepulcher. The swaddling clothes remind us that Jesus came to this earth to die for our sins.

**Vs 8** The fact that there were shepherds in the field with their flocks at night proves that Jesus’ birth didn’t occur in the cold month of December.

**Vs 9** When the angel of the Lord came to the shepherds, **“the glory of the Lord shone round about them.”**

- This happened at the completion of the **Tabernacle** (Exod 40:34).
- This happened at the completion of the **Temple** (1 Kings 8:11).
- This happened at the completion of the **BODY** that was prepared for God to dwell in on this earth (Luke 2:9, God manifest in the flesh, 1 Tim. 3:16).
- The glory of the Lord also appeared at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:55) to fill the body of Christ (the church).

**Vs 10** The good news of Jesus’ birth was not only for a few *“elect,”* but **“to all people.”**

**Vs 11** Why did the angels appear to shepherds? Because LAMBS are born to shepherds. The angels told those shepherds **“unto YOU is born this day...a Saviour...”** Who was born? The lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29). *Mary had a little lamb; his fleece was white as snow.*

**Vs 12** The shepherds would find the babe because there was a sign; something unusual that you wouldn’t normally see: a baby wrapped in burial cloth lying in a manger (a feeding trough for cattle).

**13-14** A multitude of angels appeared praising God. Verse 14 is usually misquoted. Understand: there can be no **“peace on earth”** or **“good will toward men”** until there is FIRST **“Glory to God in the highest.”**

**Vs 15** The faith of the shepherds. Notice that they believed the angel’s report before they saw it with their own eyes. They went to **“see this thing which IS come to pass.”**

**16-17** The shepherds went out and preached about the child. Their witness was concerning Jesus, not Mary.

**18-20** **“Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her heart.”** Again, we notice the faith of Mary. She’s still not questioning God or complaining about anything that the Lord has done through her. She kept it all in her heart.

The shepherds had their eyes on Jesus. That enabled them to go out glorifying and praising God instead of complaining about their fellow man.

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