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The Saviour's Birth

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **December 25, 2016**

Luke 2:8-20

Introduction: In this chapter, we have an account of the **BIRTH** and **infancy** of our Lord Jesus: having had notice of his conception, and of the birth and infancy of his forerunner, in the former chapter. The **First-begotten** is here brought into the world; let us go meet him with our hosannas, blessed is he that cometh. Here is, **I.** The place and other circumstances of **his birth**, which proved him to be the TRUE MESSIAH, and such a one as we needed, but not such a one as the Jews expected, Luke 2:1-7. **II.** The notifying of his birth to the **shepherds** in that neighbourhood by an angel, the **song of praise** which the **angels sung** upon that occasion, and the spreading of the report of it by the shepherds, Luke 2:8-20. (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/mhm/luke-2.html>)

Thought 1. Further down in our study, when we look at Luke 2:13-14, I'll confirm the Commentators remark with additional scriptures about "angels singing."

Luke 2:1-2, *And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a **decree** from Caesar **Augustus** that ALL the world should be **TAXED (enrol).** (And this taxing was first made when **Cyrenius (Quirinus)** was **governor** of Syria.)*

NOTE: Augustus ..."This is the title given by the Roman Senate on January 17, 27 B.C., to Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (63 B.C.-14 A.D.)." **All the world ...** was "a technical term used freely to refer to the Roman Empire," which was indeed, at that time, the whole civilized world. **Should be enrolled ...** Critical allegations denying that such enrollments were made have been proved false. As Barclay said: Such censuses were taken every **FOURTEEN years**; and from 20 A.D. to 270 A.D., we possess actual documents from every **census** taken ... Here is an instance where further knowledge has shown the accuracy of the New Testament.

The **second census** under Quirinius was in **6 A.D.** (Acts 5:37); and the words "the first" in this passage refer to the **census FOURTEEN years** earlier in 8 B.C., but which was delayed in Palestine until the time coinciding with the **BIRTH of Christ in 6 B.C.** Quirinius was TWICE governor and presided over both. Robertson said: Luke is now shown to be wholly correct in his statement that **Quirinius** was twice governor, and that the **FIRST CENSUS** took place during the first period. A series of inscriptions in Asia Minor show that Quirinius was governor of Syria in **10-7 B.C.**, and again in **6 A.D.** (Source: <https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-2.html>)

NOTE: History has recorded that from time to time, Rome ordered a **census** of the peoples under its **rule** so that it could **increase** the **tax ROLLS** and thus raise additional **revenue** to carry out imperial projects. It is likely that **Roman soldiers** were assigned the task of

announcing **news** of these **events** in the provinces, which at the time of **Jesus** included Palestine. (Source: *Readers Digest, Jesus and his Times*)

Luke 2:3-5, 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 **Judaea**, unto the city of David, which is called **Bethlehem**; (because he was of the house and lineage of **David**;) To be taxed with **Mary** his espoused (betroth) **WIFE**, being **great** with **child**.

NOTE: Some scholars doubt that Mary and Joseph ever had to endure the **80-mile**, nearly week-long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, with a pregnant Mary jostled around on a donkey. It is claimed that **Rome** never required its subjects to return to their original homes for such an enrollment and that Luke merely erred on his facts, invoking a later, **6 AD census** by **Quirinius**, the governor of the Roman province of Syria, to justify the presence of the couple in Bethlehem. Let us EXAMINE the facts: **Papyri** discovered in nearby Egypt indicate that in **104 AD**, **taxpayers** were "**summoned** to return to their own hearths, in order that they may perform the customary business of **registration**." The **Romans collected plenty of taxes!** There were income taxes, food taxes, land taxes based on harvests, transport taxes on goods, a purchase tax and customs duties. These were on top of the **poll tax** (tributum capiti) that went directly to Rome, for which the **CENSUS** was taken that **LED Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem**. In the 1st century BC/AD this tax was set at one silver Denarius per head, an extra load deeply resented by the Jews. (Source: http://www.wingsofeaglesct.com/LIFE_OF_JESUS/002_NazarethToBethlehem1.htm)

NOTE: **Who was BETROTHED to him ...** indicates that the relationship between Joseph and Mary was still that of an **UNCONSUMMATED marriage**; although, of course, they had been **living together** since the command to Joseph by the angel in a dream (Matt. 1:20). (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-2.html>)

Thought 1. The trip was really a very rough on Mary since she was going to give birth to Jesus in a little over a week. But, I'm sure the word of God from Gabriel and in the prophecies from Elisabeth came back to her mind. As a matter of fact, if she was wise, she recalled them purposely in order to keep her MIND stayed on her God because she TRUSTED him! This would give her peace in spite of the physical conditions! The same is true for Joseph, since he was also told of Jesus' birth in a dream. (See Matt. 1:18-25)

Isaiah 26:3-4, Thou wilt keep him in **perfect PEACE**, whose **MIND** is **stayed** on THEE: because he **trusteth** in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord **Jehovah** (*God the Father*) is everlasting **strength**...

Psalms 4:7-8, Thou hast put gladness in my heart, **more** than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. I **will** both lay me down in **PEACE**, and **sleep**: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in **safety**.

Psalms 23:1-4, The Lord is **my shepherd**... Yea, though I **walk** through the **valley** of the shadow of **death**, I will FEAR no **evil**: for thou art WITH ME; thy **rod** and thy **staff** they **COMFORT** me.

Luke 2:6-7, And so it was, that, **while** they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 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**.

Swaddling clothes defined 4683, (to wrap with strips); to swathe (WRAP) (an infant after the Oriental custom).

Manger defined 5336, a crib (for fodder [dry food for cattle, horses and sheep, as hay, straw and other kinds of vegetables]).

NOTE: The **fulness of time** was **now come**, when God would send forth his Son, **MADE** of a woman, and **MADE UNDER the LAW**; and It was foretold that he should be born at Bethlehem. Now here we have an account of the time, place, and manner of it.

I. The time when our Lord Jesus was born. Several things may be gathered out of these verses which intimate to us that it was the *proper time*.

1. He was born at the time when the **fourth monarchy** was in its height, just when it was become, more than any of the three before it, a *universal monarchy*. He was born *in the days* of Augustus Cæsar, when the Roman empire extended itself further than ever before or since, including Parthia one way, and Britain another way; so that it was then called *Terraram orbis imperium--The empire of the whole earth*; and here that empire is called *all the world* (Luke 2:1), for there was scarcely any part of the civilized world, but what was dependent on it. Now this was the time when the Messiah was to be BORN, according to **Daniel's prophecy** (Daniel 2:44): *In the days of these kings, the kings of the fourth monarchy, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.*

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/luke-2.html>)

NOTE: Her **firstborn son** ... "This means that there were other children born to Mary after this. If Luke had believed in the perpetual virginity of Mary he most likely would have used "**only born**" ([Greek: monogene]) rather than "**firstborn**" ([Greek: prototokon])." Both Mark and Matthew named **four sons** called "brothers" of Jesus; and there was utterly no indication by either sacred writer that "brothers" was to be construed otherwise than in the ordinary sense. (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3). This writer feels no compulsion toward accommodation with the superstitions that arose with reference to Mary's perpetual virginity. Strong agreement is felt with Childer's comment: Commentators who accept the **Roman Catholic** view that Mary had no other children deny that the term firstborn indicates later births by her; but it seems CLEAR to this writer that **they are denying fact to support doctrine**

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-2.html>)

Luke 2:8-10, And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by **night**. And, lo, the **angel** of the Lord came upon them, and the **glory** of the Lord **SHONE** round 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.

Thought 1. This is normal when humans SEE such a display of God's Power, Authority, Sacredness and Sublime (magnificence)! As they listened, they'd be at ease a bit more, but because of their reverence, which includes awe for God, they'd still have some trembling. As a matter of fact, their REVERENCE for God is the main reason he, first, chose to share this good news with them! Also, since it was God's will for Jesus (Yahshua) to come here in humble surroundings, the shepherds with reverence for him would be the logical choice.

And even though Jesus (Yahshua) was born an Israelite, as we know, he'd be a blessing to ALL people: PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE! That's the entirety of the species of man!

NOTE: See here how the **shepherds** were employed; they were abiding in the fields adjoining to Bethlehem, and keeping watch over their flocks **by night, v. 8**. The angel was **NOT sent** to the **chief priests** or the **elders** (they were NOT prepared to receive these tidings), but to a company of **poor shepherds**, who were like **Jacob**, plain men dwelling in tents, NOT like Esau, cunning hunters. The patriarchs were shepherds. Moses and David particularly were **called from keeping SHEEP to rule** God's people; and by this instance, God would show that he had still a favour for those of that innocent employment. Tidings were brought to **Moses** of the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt, when he was **keeping sheep**, and to **these shepherds**, who, it is probable, were DEVOUT (believing, HUMBLE) pious (reverent, godly) men, the tidings were brought of a **greater salvation**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/luke-2.html>)

2 Samuel 5:12, And **David** PERCEIVED that the Lord had established him **king** over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for **HIS people Israel's SAKE**.

Luke 2:11, For unto you is **BORN this day** in the city of David a **Saviour (a deliverer)**, which is **Christ (anointed, the Messiah)** the **LORD (master [RULER: person in authority])**.

Thought 1. When Jesus (Yahshua) was BORN, the scriptures say he was a "HUMAN."

John 1:1, 14, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God (the Father), And the Word was **GOD (a deity (divinity))**. ...And the Word was **made FLESH (a HUMAN being)**...

Human, belonging to man or mankind, human nature. (See Hebrews 2:16) NATURE, when we speak of the nature of man, we understand the peculiar constitution of his body or MIND, or the qualities of the SPECIES which distinguish him from other animals.

and dwelt among us, and we (beheld his **GLORY**, the **glory** as of the ONLY **begotten (only-BORN)** of the Father...

Thought 2. So, John 1:1 says the Word WAS "a God": God the Son. It also says that he was WITH God: the Highest God, his Father.

1 Corinthians 8:6, But to US there IS but **ONE GOD, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in him; and **ONE Lord (RULER)** Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

God defined 2316 theos theh'-os, the supreme (Highest in authority) **Divinity**.

Thought 3. Next, John 1:14 says the Word was **made (to cause to BE) a human being**. Notice, the scripture did NOT say, "the Word was made a human being AND was STILL a God." In truth, when he was made to be "a human being", he laid aside ALL of the ATTRIBUTES that made him "a God." And was MADE to be just like Adam. The difference is Adam was CREATED God's (Yahweh's) son, and Jesus (Yahshua) was BORN his Son.

Luke 3:23, 38, And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli...Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the **SON of Adam**, which **WAS** the **SON of God**.

Philippians 2:5-7, Let this **MIND** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the **FORM** of God, thought it NOT robbery to be **equal** with God: but **MADE** himself of **NO REPUTATION**...

Made & No Reputation defined 2758, to make empty (containing NOTHING), **to abase** (reduce LOW; applied to rank, office).

Thought 4. Since, Jesus did NOT think he was taking anything away from his Father by being (LIKE) him: a God, when it came time for him to change his **FORM** from a Deity to a human being, it was NOT something he wanted to do because he was uncomfortable. The scripture speaking of him being "equal" with God while in the earth, wasn't speaking of being "equal in FORM": still a God. It meant EQUAL in NATURE. Today, we're just like Jesus was when he walked the earth. Just LIKE Jesus with only ONE nature, we're also EQUAL in NATURE to God, our Father. Christians do NOT have TWO natures, as is commonly believed by some.

John 5:18 ...the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he NOT only had

broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself **EQUAL** (like in NATURE) with God.

John 14:28, If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is **GREATER** than I.

1 John 4:17, Herein is our love made **perfect**, that WE may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he (**God**) IS, **so are WE** in this **world**.

Thought 5. When Jesus (Yahshua) emptied himself of being a God, he was still, **in essence** the SAME person, but in a different FORM, with NO attributes of "a God."

Philippians 2:7-8...and TOOK upon him the form of a **SERVANT** (**slave** [wholly {completely} subject to the WILL of another]), and was made in the likeness of **MEN (a human being)**: And being found in fashion as a MAN, he **humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:21, For since by **MAN** came **death**, by **MAN** came also the resurrection of (from) the dead.

Hebrews 2:6-7, 9, But one... testified, saying, What is **MAN**, that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little **lower** than the **angels**... But we see **Jesus**, who was **MADE** a little **LOWER** than the angels (*a human being*) for the suffering of **death**, ...that he by the grace of God should taste **DEATH** for every **man**.

Hebrews 2:16-17, For **verily (indeed doubtless)** he took **NOT** on him the **nature** (*nature" added by translators*) of angels; but he took on him the SEED of Abraham. Wherefore in **ALL things** it behooved him to be **made LIKE** unto **his brethren**...

Thought 6. If Jesus had been BORN with any attributes of being "a God" in his being anywhere, he would NOT "in ALL things" be made like unto his brethren.

Deuteronomy 18:18, I will raise them up a **Prophet** from **AMONG** their **brethren**, LIKE unto thee...

Luke 2:12, And this shall be a **SIGN** unto you; Ye shall find the **BABE** wrapped in **swaddling** clothes, lying in a **manger**.

Thought 1. As you know, babies are NOT normally found in mangers where animals EAT.

Luke 2:13-14, And suddenly there was with the ANGEL a **multitude** of the heavenly **host (the angels)** **PRAISING** God, **AND saying, Glory to God in the highest (the heavens), and on EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL toward MEN**.

Praising defined 134, aineo pronounced ahee-neh'-o, Praise (to extol: speak highly of in words or **SONG**).

NOTE: praising God; on account of the **birth** of Christ, and the redemption that was to be obtained by him, for elect men; which shows their friendly disposition to them, and how much they rejoice at their spiritual and eternal welfare; see (Luke 15:10); And thus, as at the laying of the foundation of the earth, these "morning stars **sang** together, and all these sons of God shouted for joy", (Job 38:7) they did the same when the foundation of man's salvation was laid in the incarnation of the Son of God... (Source: biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/)

Job 38:7, When the **morning stars sang** together, and all the sons of God shouted for JOY?

NOTE: This must refer to some intelligent beings who existed before the creation of the visible heavens and earth: and it is supposed that this and the following clause refer to the same beings; that by the **sons of God**, and the **morning stars**, the **angelic** host is meant...
(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

Revelation 12:4, And his tail drew the third part of the **STARS** of heaven, and did cast them to the earth...

Luke 2:15, 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 (supreme in authority)** (Jehovah, Yahweh, God the Father) hath **made known** unto US.

NOTE: The angels had not commanded the shepherds to go see the child Jesus, but the implication that they should do so was contained in the **sign** given to **aid** their finding him.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/luke-2.html>)

Luke 2:16-17, And they **CAME** with haste, and **found** Mary, and Joseph, and the **babe** lying in a **manger**. And when they had **seen** it, they made **KNOWN abroad** the **saying** which was told them concerning this **child**.

NOTE: When they had seen it, though they saw nothing in the child that should induce them to believe that he was *Christ the Lord*, yet the circumstances, how mean soever they were, agreeing with the **SIGN** that the **angel** had given them, they were abundantly **satisfied**; and as the lepers argued (2 Kings 12:9, This being a **day of good tidings**, we dare not hold our peace), so they made *known abroad* the whole story of what was *told them*, both by the *angels*, and by Joseph and Mary, concerning *this child*, that he was the Saviour, even *Christ the Lord*, that in him there is *peace on earth*, and that he was *conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost*, and *born of a virgin*.
(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible* classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

Psalms 107:22, And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and **declare his WORKS** with rejoicing.

1 Chronicles 16:24, **Declare** his glory among the **heathen**; HIS **marvellous works** among all nations.

Luke 2:18-20, And **all** they that **HEARD it wondered (admire, marvel [stare, hold one's breath])** at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary **KEPT** all these things, and **pondered** them in her **heart (mind)**. And the shepherds returned, **glorifying** and **praising** God for **ALL** the things that they had **heard** and **SEEN**, as it was **TOLD** unto them.

Romans 10:17, So then **FAITH** cometh by **HEARING**, and **hearing** by the **word OF** God.

Hearing defined 189, hearing (the sense (discernment: UNDERSTANDING) or the thing heard): **FAME** (report of **GREAT** actions).

Of, 1. **FROM** 2. denoting reference to a thing; **ABOUT**.

Thought 1. Now, let's look at Romans 10:17 along with the definitions.
"So then **FAITH** comes by **report** of great actions and by understanding, and understanding (comes) by the **WORD FROM** or **ABOUT** God."

Psalm 119:99, I have **more UNDERSTANDING** than all my **teachers**: for thy **testimonies** (WITNESS; EVIDENCE) are my meditation.