

# A Son Promised; A Son Given

Luke 2:1-21

Isaiah 9:1-7; Galatians 4:1-7



25 December 2022

## Pursuing God-Given Goals

**God's Eternal Plan** - Meditating on Christmas or better "the birth of Christ".

- Eternity and Time
- God's eternal purpose.
- God's unfolding plan
- God's first promise in Genesis 3:15
- Isaiah's prophecies 700 years earlier (Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; John 3:16; . . . . )
  - What darkness?
- Micah's prophecy 700 years earlier - Micah 5:1-4
- Daniel's Prophecy - Daniel 2; 9:24-27
- Jacob's prophecy - Genesis 49:10
- Why a virgin? (Luke 1:34; Isaiah 7:14)
- Why Bethlehem and not Jerusalem?
- Why a decree from a pagan ruler?
- Who was Octavian?
- Why a manger? Why no room in an inn?
- Why shepherds?
- What was the purpose of the wise men? Significance of the three gifts.
- What is the significance of His names: Jesus, Christ, Lord, Immanuel, Son of God?
- Why did God take on flesh and come to Earth as a slave? (Philippians 2:5-8)

**God Keeping His Covenant** (Genesis 12:1-5; 17:19)

- His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah . . . . . Jesus Christ.
- A Son promised; a Son given! (Genesis 17:7, 19; 21:2-3)

**John Prepared the Way** (last week's sermon)

- Zacharias's prophecy.
- John's preaching: REPENT, the Kingdom of God is AT HAND!
- John's warning: **The ax is ready to cut down fruitless trees.**

**God Moves All History in Accomplishing His Plan** (Luke 2:1)

- "it came to pass" - Luke uses this phrase 69 times
- "it came to pass" - literally means "now it happened"; "to come into existence";

- “to appear in history”; “to come upon the stage”.
- GOD in Luke 2:1 - NOT there but there.
  - Definition of **PROVIDENCE**.

**God’s constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation, directing all things to their appointed end for His own glory and for the good of His special people.**

### **A Messiah Chosen** (Isaiah 42:1-6; Genesis 12:2-3; 17:19)

- “BEHOLD, My Servant, whom I uphold, My Elect One, in whom My soul delights . . . I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles . . .!”
- God gives . . . Isaiah 42:1-6; 7:14; 9:6-7, John 3:16; **Romans 8:32**.

### **A Body Prepared** (Hebrews 10:5-7)

### **A Place Chosen** (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:7, 12, 16)

- Bethlehem - “house of bread”; “I am the Bread that came from heaven.” (John 6:32-40)
- A manger: Christ became poor so that we might become rich. (2 Cor 8:9)

### **A Time Chosen** (Galatians 4:4)

- ★ A meditation on “time”
  - Greek word - *chronos*
  - Time and us: we live and die in time; history is recorded in time; everything happens in time. Our time is already determined. (Job 14:5; Psalm 139:16; 31:15)
  - God the Creator and Controller of time. Time is a servant of God.
- GOD is the **CREATOR** and the **CONTROLLER** of time:
  - **GOD created TIME** (all of it! - all history) when He created the heavens and the earth. When God said, “Let there be light!” time began to tick! (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:2 “aions”)
    - \*TIME belongs to GOD – NOT us. (Heb 1:1-2; Col. 1:16-17)
  - **GOD is the SUSTAINER** of time. God determines when we live and when we die (Job 12:10; Acts 17:25, 28)! God has written down our days and recorded them in His book even before we were born! (Psalm 139:15-16) God determined when time began and God has already determined when time will end!
- **GOD is the CONTROLLER** of time. Everything that happens **INSIDE** of time is called **HISTORY**. History is the record of events that happen in time. (Daniel 2:21)

- \* History is the recording of all of God's marvelous works!
- \* God controls time and history! Nothing happens in time unless God **commands** it. (Lamentations 3:37-38; Daniel 9:24-27)
- Greek word for "fullness" = *pleroo*
- Nautical term: "the wind (same word as spirit) filling a sail on a ship to move it in its direction.

## A Chosen Leader: Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1)

- Octavian (27 BC to 14 AD) took the name AUGUSTUS – "the august one"
- He was the EMPEROR of the WORLD – He was the WORLD LEADER! **He was the most powerful man on earth when Christ was born.**
- He was known for his administrative prowess (superior ability).
- How did Octavian become emperor?
- GOD is not mentioned in Luke 2:1 **but** He is there!
- Octavian became the emperor of Rome and leader of the world because GOD gave him that position! GOD appointed Octavian to the position of emperor! (See Daniel 2:21; 4:17, 32; 5:18; Psalm 75:6-7; Romans 13:1; John 19:11)
- Octavian was brought into the world to accomplish God's purpose for him. (Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17)
- The heart (mind and will) was in the hand of God and God turned it whatever way He wanted to turn it. (Proverbs 21:1)
- Octavian was a man *in history* (in God's story; in God's plan) and "it came to pass" for Octavian to order a census – JUST AS GOD HAD PLANNED! It was TIME for Octavian "to come out on stage". Who decides when actors come out on stage? The actor? The audience? Chance? Or the DIRECTOR!
- The census was NOT Octavian's idea – it was GOD's!
- "world" - *Terraram orbis imperium* - "the empire of the whole world"
- **BUT** are we only PUPPETS? We are **created** beings living in a **created** world in **created** history. All creatures belong to their Creator to accomplish the Creator's will. History/all time is all about God - NOT US!

## A Couple Chosen (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

- Mary and Joseph

## A Virgin Chosen (Luke 1:26-35; Isaiah 7:14)

- The Triune God chose Mary!
  - \* The Father chose her.
  - \* The Son was born to her.
  - \* The Spirit came upon her.
- (1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 20:28; Lev 17:11; Heb 9:12-14) **PRECIOUS BLOOD!**

## A Chosen Name and Specific Mission (Matthew 1:21)

- \* JESUS: He will save **HIS** people - all the Father gave Him - God's special people - from their sins. (John 6:38-40; John 10:26-29; 17:2, 9, 11)
- \* Daniel 9:24 - "to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness . . ."

## Shepherds Chosen

- Jesus was the "Lamb of GOD" (John 1:29) He was to be God's sacrifice FOR US! (1 Peter 1:18-20)
- "**for us!**" (Isaiah 53:2-10; Rom 4:24; 5:8; 8:32; 1 Cor 5:7; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 5:2; Gal 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Thess 5:10; Hebrews 9:24)
- (Revelation 5:6, 12; 13:8) **The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

## Angel's Announcement and Praise (Luke 2:9-14)

- The announcement: "BEHOLD . . . good tidings of GREAT joy . . . this day . . . city of David . . . a **Saviour** . . . **Christ the Lord**" (vv. 10-11)
- The praise: "**Glory to God in the highest!**"
- **PEACE** - the "**Prince of Peace**" has come! (Isaiah 9:6)
- He is **OUR PEACE** with God. (Romans 5:1; Eph 2:14 in contrast Isaiah 48:22)

## The Lord Reigns - Are we trembling this Christmas Day?

- God has revealed greatness/awesomeness in moving all of history to gather to Himself His special people. **Are you one of God's special people?**

# LISTEN!

- God is the AWE of Christmas and every other day!
  - \* **GOD is GOD!** GOD decides who will be given a kingdom; GOD raises men to leadership and takes them out of leadership; GOD gives power to one army and takes it away from another (read Ezekiel 30:20-30; Isaiah 37:26-27); GOD controls the weather; GOD controls disease and pestilence; **GOD controls history!!!!**
- Christ came with a specific purpose.
  - ① First and primarily, to magnify God's Law. (Isaiah 42:21)
  - ② To save and sanctify (make holy) His people from their sins by giving His life as a ransom for them. (Matthew 1:21; 20:28; Heb 2:11; 10:10, 14)

*In the fullness of time, the awesome GOD sent forth His Son to save His people from their sins!*

*In the fullness of time, the awesome GOD will send His Son again to gather to Himself His people and to judge those who do not know and obey Him!*