

▼ **A Very Jewish Savior!**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday December 19, 2021

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• **Read the Passage: Luke 2:1-21**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

▼ **Sermon's Purpose (what listeners should know and do)**

- Understand Jesus' Context
- Understand The Birth of Jesus
- Israel Is the Focus of God's Plan To Reclaim Our Broken World
- Jesus' Birth
- Jesus' Birth and Our Broken World
- Celebrating the Birth of Jesus

▼ **Understand Jesus' context.**

▼ Everything has a context.

▼ Comic book characters:

- Superman is the last son of Krypton.
- Batman was driven to fight crime after seeing his parents murdered in front of him.
- Wonder Woman is an Amazonian princess from Themyscira sent to fight crime in the world of men.
- Spiderman was a high school student who gained super powers after being bitten by a radioactive spider.

▼ The Bible has a context.

- The Bible is not just a collection of promises and victory scriptures.
- The Bible is a narrative telling a grand story about God reclaiming our broken world and how we can be a part of what he's doing.

▼ Jesus has a context!

- Matthew 1:1-17 - Descended from Abraham & David.
- Matthew 1:20-21 - Jesus (Yeshua): He will save his people from their sins.

▼ Luke 1:26-33

- Jesus will be called the Son of the Most High.
- The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.
- He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever.
- His kingdom will never end.
- Jesus redeems Israel and will lead them to fulfill their mission.

▼ **Israel Is the Focus of God's Plan To Reclaim Our Broken World**

- God made a good world.
- God appointed men and women to be his representatives in the world he created.
- Human being rebelled - plunging the world into sin and destruction.
- God didn't give up.
- He began rebuilding with Noah - that didn't solve the problem.
- He continued rebuilding with Abraham and Sarah, then Isaac and Rebecca, then Jacob who became Israel - they all failed.
- God allows Israel to spend 400 years in slavery and then rescues them through Moses and enters into covenant with them.
- Nevertheless, despite some bright spots, Israel ultimately sinks into uselessness.
- By the time of Jesus' birth, Israel desperately needs a savior.

▼ **The Birth of Jesus**

- Joseph & Mary leave Nazareth for Bethlehem because of the census.
- Joseph & Mary would most likely have stayed with relatives of Joseph.
- Normal homes had a first floor, for cooking and keeping animals, an upper room for sleeping and eating, and might also have a guest room on the side of the house.
- There is no guest room available at the home where they were staying, so Joseph and Mary stay on the first floor where the home-owners would most likely have kept their animals and done the cooking. Jesus is placed in a manger after he is born.
- God sends angels to announce the birth of Israel's savior to some local shepherds. The baby in the manger is a sign for the shepherds confirming what they've been told.

▼ **Jesus' Birth and Our Broken World**

- Jesus is about to spend the next 30 years doing almost nothing noteworthy.
- After that he will spend 3.5 years building a Kingdom that will never end.
- ▼ The birth of Jesus represents God's commitment:
 - Commitment to the long haul.
 - Commitment to fully embracing humanity.
- Jesus spent 30 years developing a human life complete with habits and personality in order to spend 3.5 years laying the foundation to reboot Israel.

▼ **Celebrating The Birth of Jesus**

- Celebrate the day, but don't stop there!
- Embrace God's plan for our broken world.
- Embrace Jesus' place in God's plan - backstory and all.
- ▼ Don't be afraid to start over from scratch.
 - Rebuild your understanding of Jesus.
 - Let go of any conception of Jesus that doesn't match his Jewish context/backstory.
- Commit to the long haul.
- Commit your entire humanity.
- Rebuild your life from the "habits" up feeding on the life of Jesus as recorded in the gospels.

▶ **The Components of a Testimony**

▶ **Picturing Salvation**

▶ **Learn how to use your testimony**

▶ **Learn how to give your own testimony:**

▶ **What's getting in the way of your testimony?**

▶ **Conclusion**

▼ **Followup**

▶ **Old Questions**

• **Q&A**

▼ **Life Group Meeting**

▼ Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)

• [Icebreaker](#)

• Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)

▼ Word

▼ Discussion Questions

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- 1 The gospels emphasize Jesus' role as Israel's savior. Do you have any questions about this?
- 2 How are you doing in reading through the gospels? How about the rest of the Bible?
- 3 Give examples of unchurched people you know at various thresholds.
- 4 What keeps you from influencing the unchurched people you know to follow Jesus?
- 5 What keeps you from getting to know new unchurched people?

▼ Witness

▼ Testimony:

▼ Describe your life before Jesus.

- Your ethnicity, where you were born, where you were raised.

▼ The spiritual beliefs you were raised with and/or that you eventually adopted.

- How you decided right or wrong.
- Your beliefs about and attitude towards Jesus and Christians.
- Examples that illustrate your former beliefs.
- What were your most important goals?

- Describe how you realized you needed to follow Jesus.

- Pray for 1 or 2 people that you want to become followers of Jesus.

- Pray for boldness to build your relationships with unchurched people and to talk about Jesus.



A Very Jewish Savior!

Sunday December 19, 2021



Our Passage – Luke 2:1-21 (1 of 2)

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”



Our Passage – Luke 2:1-21 (2 of 2)

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

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Overview:

Understand Jesus' Context

Understand The Birth of Jesus

Israel Is the Focus of God's Plan To Reclaim Our Broken World

Jesus' Birth

Jesus Birth and Our Broken World

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus



Understand Jesus' Context

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Israel Is the Focus of God's Plan

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Life Group Meeting

Welcome (5 - 10 minutes)

Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)

Word

Witness



Life Group Meeting

Welcome (5-10 minutes)

- [Icebreaker](#)

Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)

Word - Discussion Questions

For each question, spend 1 – 2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

1. The gospels emphasize Jesus' role as Israel's savior. Do you have any questions about what this means and how it applies to us?
2. How are you doing in reading through the gospels? How about the rest of the Bible?
3. Give examples of unchurched people you know at various thresholds.
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Witness (next page)



Life Group Meeting

Witness

- Testimony:
 - Describe your life before Jesus:
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