

**I. Fulfilled - Luke 2:4-7**

1. From Nazareth to Galilee (**verse 4**)
  - to Judea, to Bethlehem
2. Why? - because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David
  - David grew up in Bethlehem
  - to be taxed
3. Isaiah had foretold that the Messiah would be a descendant of Jesse (David)
  - see Isaiah 11:1 and Jeremiah 23:5-6
4. Taxed (**verse 5**)
  - registration which is part of a census

Rea                    -hmmm

  - 1) I guess we're not the first to be a part of a census
  - 2) I guess we're not the first to be taxed
5. They are "espoused"
  - during that time an espoused couple did not have sexual relations
  - Joseph would want her with him
6. While they were there (**verse 6**)
  - A. The days were "accomplished" that she be delivered
  - B. Compare Galatians 4:4 for "fulness of time"
  - Rea                    C. You might discuss God's timing vs our timing
  - Rea                    D. They were not there to have a baby, they were there to be taxed - but all the stars converged... in the right place at the right time to be Messiah
7. Mary: (**verse 7**)
  - A. Gave birth
  - B. Wrapped Him in swaddling clothes - all babies at this time were swaddled
  - C. Laid Him in a manger - feeding trough for feeding animals
  - D. No room in the inn - the town was full because of the taxation edict
    - at Matthew 2:11 they are in a "house"

Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**

  1. Do you think Jesus was "homeless?"
    - no, his parents were just away from home, and were there to pay taxes
  2. So, Joseph is a good tax paying citizen?
  3. Discuss the ways of man - taxation, and the ways of God... bring Jesus to Bethlehem, because that's where the prophecy says He is to be born. So God works in the arena of human activity.

**II. Announced - Luke 2:8-14**

1. At night they "watch over" their flocks (**verse 8**)

Rea                    -an average and ordinary night for them
2. An angel announces the birth to them (**verse 9**)

Rea                    Note the actions:

  - An angel came
  - Glory shone around
  - They become afraid

- Good news  
A multitude of angels (later)
3. Good news (**verse 10**)  
-great joy  
-for “all” people (not just the Jews)
- Rea 4. Jesus is born today (**verse 11**)  
-in the city of David  
-titles:  
-Savior  
-Christ  
-the Lord  
-in other words He is the Messiah
5. A sign for you (**verse 12**)  
-lying in a manger
- Rea 6. So, to find Him  
-look in the city of David, for a newborn, in a manger
7. A crowd of angels appear (**verse 13**)  
-called a “heavenly host” which could have been all types of heavenly beings
8. “Saying” Glory to God in the highest (**verse 14**)  
A. Peace and good will toward men  
Rea B. Note they are “saying” not “singing”  
-singing this has become an accepted tradition, whether or no it should be  
-at Isaiah 6 when Isaiah sees the Lord... the seraphim are all about  
“calling” holy, holy, holy
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Birth announcement?
  2. Why the shepherds? -instead of the other faithful Jewish followers of God?
  3. Must’ve been glorious but also very frightening for these shepherds - “sore afraid” in verse 9
  4. Verse 17 says they made known these things - so, messengers (angels) lead to other messengers - shepherds

### III. Found - Luke 2:15-19

1. The angels depart (**verse 15**) - and the shepherds decide to go  
Rea -see for themselves. Does this imply any disbelief?
2. Identify that the “Lord” has made this known - not the angels
3. Found the three players - Mary, Joseph and Jesus (**verse 16**)  
Rea -how do you think they found them in a crowded Bethlehem?
4. Made known abroad (**verse 17**)  
-our first impulse is to tell others what God has done in our hearts  
Rea -our writer says that “all” may mean all those that heard in the city. However,  
**verse 18** specifically said this was the response to the testimony of the shepherds  
Rea -could it be that God chose to give this word specifically to the shepherds because of what they did with the news
5. They make it known but Mary keeps these things in her heart (**verse 19**)  
Rea -I don’t think this means that Mary didn’t tell anyone... but “pondered” them - she

knew more than the shepherds because she'd received an advance word from Gabriel  
(Chapter 1)

Rea -mothers "ponder" things

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. They could not but speak what they'd seen and heard - where is that bold and spontaneous witness in God's church today?
2. God obviously cares about "little" people
  - contrast this announcement to one that God might have made to the Pharisees, Sadducees or others
3. So the message goes out - God initiates the whole process... by grace
  - but mankind must receive - the Shepherds and Wise received others did not
  - John 1:12!!

Jere Phillips - SS Lesson for 12-20-20