



## T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2021

Luke 2:1-18

Sunday, December 19, 2021

### WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THAT FIRST NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS?

Luke 2:1 (NASB) *Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.*

#### 1. The first night before Christmas came at a HISTORICAL crossroad.

Luke 2:4 (NASB) *Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.*

#### 2. The first night before Christmas included a lot of INCONVENIENCES!

Matthew 1:18 (NIV) *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to put her away quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel" - which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.*

Luke 2:6 (NASB) *While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

#### 3. The first night before Christmas arrived in a somewhat ORDINARY manner.

Luke 2:8 (NASB) *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.*

**4. The first night before Christmas had FAR-REACHING effects.**

Luke 2:9 (NASB) *And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.*

Luke 2:10 (NASB) *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup>for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

- The angel's message was GOOD news of great joy.

1 Corinthians 15:1 (NIV) *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup>By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup>and last of all he appeared to me...*

- The angelic message was for ALL the people.

Ephesians 2:11 (NLT) *Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders by birth. You were called "the uncircumcised ones" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup>In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup>But now you belong to Christ Jesus. Though you once were far away from God, now you have been brought near to Him because of the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For Christ Himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us. <sup>15</sup>By His death He ended the whole system of Jewish law that excluded the Gentiles. His purpose was to make peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new person from the two groups. <sup>16</sup>Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of His death, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. <sup>17</sup>He has brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from Him, and to us Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup>Now all of us, both Jews and Gentiles, may come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.*

- This message was a PERSON.

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.*

- This message was not the end, but the BEGINNING.

*This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger...*

Luke 2:13 (NASB) *And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,* <sup>14</sup> *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."*

Luke 2:15 (NASB) *When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."* <sup>16</sup> *So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.* <sup>17</sup> *When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.* <sup>18</sup> *And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.*

*"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"* (Luke 2:52).

*"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly"* (John 10:10).

John 1:12 (NLT) *But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.*

## **SO, WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE "GO?"**

Romans 10:9 (NLT) *For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>10</sup> *For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.* <sup>11</sup> *As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who believes in Him will not be disappointed [literally, "put to shame"]."*