

# The Real Christmas Story – 4-1

## I. Luke 2:1-40

V1-3...look at all of the historical facts in here.

V7...'swaddling' clothes...the Greek word is 'spargano' which means 'to swathe'. This is the same word used for burial bandages (the burial bandages that were wrapped around Christ when He was buried).

V7...Jesus was born in a manger where animals were...animals were also used in the Temple sacrifices...coincidence? Kings/princes were always born in high & mighty places. Jesus was born humbly, like you & I.

V8...remember, it was not Dec.25th or in the winter. It was probably in the springtime.

V8...Shepharding was a lowly profession...shepherds were considered 'unclean' because of their work. The gospel 1<sup>st</sup> came to the outcasts of the day. How appropriate!

V8...Shepherds later symbolized those who care for God's people, like pastors....Ps 23:1, Isa 40:11, Heb 13:20 & 1Pete 2:25 & 5:2.

V9...angels appearing again...and what was the shepherds reaction?

V10...the angel says 'Don't be afraid'

V10...the 'good news' of Jesus Christ is the 'gospel' of Jesus Christ. The angels are saying that this is 'good news' and a 'great joy'.

V12...even back then, a baby born in a manger was not normal. That's why the angel said that that's the sign....a newborn baby wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger.

V14...the King James is a bad translation...'and on earth, peace to men of good will'. That's a whole lot different than....'and on earth, peace to men on whom His favor rest'. The 'peace' here refers to the 'peace of Christ'...Matt 1:79 & Phil 4:7.

V17,18....the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian evangelists were lowly shepherds instead of the King's heralds.

V19...a young girl of 13-15 ponders all of this as she looks at her baby boy.

V25-38...in the mouth of 2 witnesses, God confirms it...Deut 19:15 & Matt 18:16...each witness is an authentic representation of Judaism, righteous & devout.

V31,32...Jesus the Messiah is for all of the world, not just Israel.

V34,35....note the order...the' falling & rising ', not rising & falling, referring MAYBE to the dispersal (in 70 A.D.) and re-gathering of Israel (in 1948 A.D.). This clash in V34 & 35 will hurt Mary deeply.

V39,40...Joe & Mary were godly people whose hearts were toward obedience to God.. Look at all that God asked of them.

## The Real Christmas Story – 4-2

So, why the big deal about Jesus? Let's review some facts....

1. Gen 2:4-9, 15-25....note v16..'the tree of life'
2. Gen 3:6-24....note v22..'the tree of life'....also, note v15..the 1<sup>st</sup> promise of a savior..the word 'offspring' is the word 'seed'..God doesn't say the seed of a man & a woman, but only the seed of a woman (the virgin birth?)....this seed is Jesus..Gal. 3:16.

Genesis is 'paradise lost'.....but Revelation is 'paradise regained'.

You know how Stars Wars was really about the redemption of Anakin Skywalker.....the Bible is about the redemption of us, the human race (Ephesians 1:7). It's also the story of our redeemer - Jesus and about how God redeemed us.

Rev 21:1-7 22:1,2,13,14,16,17....note v2,14 the tree of life.

So, what do we do in the meantime....

1. Hebrews 12:2
2. Phil 2:5-11
3. Romans 5:1,6,8 13:11-14
4. 1Cor 15:2-4
5. 1John 5:11-13
6. Acts 4:12 13:47,49, 52.....Christianity is 'personal' but not 'private'....people need to hear about Jesus.
7. We await His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming...Titus 2:11-14, note v13

Christmas is celebrating the birth of our Redeemer. This Christmas, let's celebrate Jesus!

The Magi said...'we have seen His star and have come to worship Him'....

We can say, 'we have seen His effect on our lives and we want to worship Him'.

Christmas is not just some nice celebration, but the start of a radical new Kingdom. Christmas reminds us that we need to follow King Jesus into His Kingdom, which will eventually merge into the eternal Kingdom....paradise restored!