

The Nativity: The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-7

Context: After setting the stage in Luke 1 with the backstory of John the Baptist, Gabriel's appearance to Mary and Zechariah, Luke now takes us to a stable in Bethlehem.

When approaching the manger of Jesus....

I. _____ out the historical setting (vs. 1-2)

- a. Luke gives us much historical context for the birth of Jesus, establishing the rulers of the time, the events of the census, and the town of Jesus' birth.
- b. The precise year of Christ's birth cannot be known with certainty, but it was probably no earlier than 6 b.c. and certainly no later than 4 b.c. (John MacArthur)
- c. Even the most liberal scholars of the Bible alive today agree that Jesus was a genuine person of history.

II. _____ at the sovereignty of God (vs. 3-5)

- d. It was a four-day journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph would have had to travel about 90 miles in four days, averaging a 2.5-mph pace for roughly eight hours a day.
- e. In order for Micah 5:2 to be fulfilled, God had to get them to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. God used a Roman Census to move them exactly where He wanted them.

III. _____ room for Jesus (vs. 6-7)

- a. It is difficult to imagine that the promised messiah, the king of all kings, had come into the world in a stable.
- b. The King of creation, who deserved all honor and glory, had been born into the humblest of circumstances. (Tony Evans)
- c. Though many do not make room for Jesus, "where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in." (From verse 3 of "O Little Town of Bethlehem")