

“Away In A Manger”

How A Divine Appointment In Bethlehem Happened

Luke 2:1-7

The old Proverb writer pondered a mystery: “the king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will” (Prov. 21:1). How does this happen? Today we see a stark example of God’s eternal rule in the affairs of men, referred to as the “doctrine of _____” (see *WC* 3.1). That is, the human purposes of an Emperor “flow together” with and are directed by the eternal decrees of God. The great Octavian (r. 27 B.C. – A.D. 14) decreed in 8 B.C. that his Empire should be registered. His imperial bureaucracy followed, eventually propelling a young couple into David’s royal city. And there – in fulfillment of all the ancient prophecies – was born a King whose Kingdom (“not of this world”) would conquer the mighty Roman Empire.

I. The _____ of the Nativity. (v 1-2, see John 1:11)

1. Octavian ruled in _____ as Caesar _____, scheming to multiply his citizens.
2. The Lord God reigned in _____, decreeing the entrance of his _____ into the world.
3. Doctor Luke carefully _____ the Biblical and secular histories.
4. So a newly-wedded couple journeyed to the “city of _____.” (study *Bethlehem!*)

II. The _____ of the Nativity. (v 3-5,)

1. Joseph _____ his family on a long journey - into God’s _____.
2. Mary _____ from girlhood into motherhood.
3. Jesus _____ the world according to plan – it was _____ in the Manger.

III. The _____ of the Nativity. (v 6-7)

1. The Lord shows us the _____ of our sin (Is. 1:3, Jn. 1:11).
2. The Lord is _____ his promises to DAVID (1:32, 69; 2:4).
3. The Second Person of the _____ was once a babe in Mary’s arms.
4. Heaven and earth were _____ in the Incarnation, and will one day be _____!
5. Behold the condescension of the Savior ... and do likewise.

CC #50 “Christ, the Son of God, became a man so that he could obey and suffer in our place.”

SC #22 “Christ, the Son of God, became a man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her yet without sin.”