

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 8

TITLE: THE SONRISE

TEXT: LUKE 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION: (1) IN LUKE 2:1-7, LUKE DESCRIBES THE MOST PROFOUND BIRTH IN HISTORY, WITH THE MOST FAR REACHING IMPLICATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

* YET ON A DAY LIKE ANY OTHER DAY, IN AN OBSCURE VILLAGE NAMED BETHLEHEM, UNNOTICED BY THE WORLD, A CHILD WAS BORN, HIS NAME WAS JESUS.

** HOWEVER, WHILE HIS BIRTH WAS LIKE THAT OF EVERY OTHER CHILD, THE CHILD HIMSELF WAS TOTALLY UNLIKE ANY OTHER BABY EVER BORN.

*** FOR THIS BABY AS R. KENT HUGHES SAID
**"WAS NOT A CAESAR, A MAN WHO WOULD
BECOME A GOD, BUT A FAR GREATER WONDER –
THE TRUE GOD WHO HAD BECOME A MAN!"**

**** BELOVED THE INFINITE GOD BECAME AN
INFANT!

(2) IN JESUS' BIRTH GOD ENTERED HUMAN
SOCIETY AS AN INFANT, THE CREATOR OF THE
UNIVERSE BECAME A PART OF HIS CREATION,
THE CREATOR BECAME A CREATURE.

* AND MOST OF US BELIEVE THAT TRUTH, BUT
NONE OF US UNDERSTAND THE
CONDESCENSION THAT WAS INVOLVED IN GOD
BECOMING MAN.

** IT WOULD BE LIKE A HUMAN BEING
BECOMING A COCKROACH MULTIPLIED BY A
BILLION TIMES.

***** MARTIN LUTHER SAID AND I QUOTE: "WHEN I AM TOLD THAT GOD BECAME MAN, I CAN FOLLOW THE IDEA, BUT I JUST DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS. FOR WHAT MAN, IF LEFT TO HIS NATURAL PROMPTINGS, IF HE WERE GOD, WOULD HUMBLE HIMSELF TO LIE IN THE FEEDBOX OF A DONKEY (A MANGER) OR TO HANG UPON A CROSS?" (END QUOTE)**

**** AND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS NONE OF US! BUT GOD DID.

(3) BROTHERS AND SISTERS: THE OMNIPOTENT, OMNIPRESENT, OMNISCIENT GOD BECAME A BABY!

* I MEAN THE ONE WHO ASKED JOB IN JOB **38:4&9, "WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I LAID THE EARTH'S FOUNDATION? TELL ME IF YOU UNDERSTAND...WHEN I MADE THE CLOUD ITS GARMENT AND WRAPPED IT IN THICK DARKNESS."** NOW HIMSELF LAY WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHES!

** THE LEAP DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH IS STAGGERING.

*** AND THE FACT IS, THE MORE YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE STAGGERING IT GETS.

**** NOTHING IN FICTION IS SO FANTASTIC AS IS THE TRUTH OF THE INCARNATION – THAT GOD WOULD BECOME MAN TO SAVE MAN.

(4) AND WHEN I TALK ABOUT THE **INCARNATION, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT** FICTION, BUT A BIBLICAL TRUTH, ONE THAT IS SO FANTASTIC THAT NO ONE BUT GOD ALMIGHTY COULD COME UP WITH IT.

* THE REASON BEING, IF MAN HAD COME UP WITH THIS PLAN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH DIFFERENT, RADICALLY DIFFERENT. THE SETTING, THE SCENERY, THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE MEANS TO FULFILL THE PLAN WOULD HAVE BEEN TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

** YET, CHRISTIANITY HINGES ON THE FACT THAT GOD BECAME MAN, THAT CHRIST HUMBLLED HIMSELF AND THEN WOULD BECOME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. MIND BOGGLING!

(5) **J. I. PACKER SAID AND I QUOTE, "THE REALLY STAGGERING CHRISTIAN CLAIM IS THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS GOD MADE MAN.**

* THE SECOND PERSON OF THE GODHEAD **BECAME THE "SECOND MAN"** (ADAM BEING THE FIRST) DETERMINING HUMAN DESTINY, THE SECOND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RACE AND THAT HE TOOK HUMANITY WITHOUT LOSS OF DEITY, SO THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS AS TRULY AND FULLY DIVINE AS HE WAS HUMAN.

** HERE ARE TWO MYSTERIES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE – THE PLURALITY OF PERSONS WITHIN THE UNITY OF GOD, AND THE UNION OF GODHEAD AND MANHOOD IN THE PERSON OF JESUS.

***** PACKER SAID "IT IS HERE, IN THE THING**
THAT HAPPENED AT THE FIRST CHRISTMAS,
THAT THE PROFOUNDEST AND MOST
UNFATHOMABLE DEPTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN
REVELATION LIE.

(6) THE WORD BECAME FLESH, GOD BECAME
MAN, THE DIVINE SON BECAME A JEW; THE
ALMIGHTY APPEARED ON EARTH AS A HELPLESS
HUMAN BABY, UNABLE TO DO MORE THAN LIE
AND STARE AND WIGGLE AND MAKE NOISES,
NEEDING TO BE FED AND CHANGED AND
TAUGHT TO TALK LIKE ANY OTHER CHILD.

* AND THERE WAS NO ILLUSION OR DECEPTION
IN THIS: THE BABYHOOD OF THE SON OF GOD
WAS A REALITY. (END QUOTE)

** NOW WHAT A WONDERFUL REALITY IT IS.
JESUS WAS DIVINE. THE BABE IN THE MANGER
WAS GOD. AND THAT REALITY MAKES SENSE OF
EVERYTHING ELSE THAT THE N.T. CONTAINS
ABOUT JESUS, FROM HIS MIRACLES, HIS LIFE,
HIS DEATH, AND HIS RESURRECTION.

(7) SO THE MESSAGE OF INCARNATION AND
THUS THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTIANITY RESTS ON
THE GREAT FACT THAT THE CHILD IN THE
MANGER WAS GOD-IMMANUEL. THAT IS ONE OF
THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR FAITH.

* BUT GET THIS, BY BECOMING MAN JESUS DID
NOT CEASE TO BE GOD; HE WAS NO LESS GOD
THAN BEFORE, BUT HE HAD BEGUN TO BE MAN.

** HE WAS NOT NOW GOD MINUS SOME
ELEMENTS OF HIS DEITY, BUT GOD PLUS ALL
THAT HE HAD MADE HIS OWN BY TAKING
MANHOOD TO HIMSELF. (HE WHO MADE MAN
BECAME MAN).

*** ONE OF THE EARLIER CHURCH CREEDS PUT IT
THIS WAY, "OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE SON
OF GOD, IS GOD AND MAN, PERFECT GOD AND
PERFECT MAN.

(8) WHO ALTHOUGH HE BE GOD AND MAN; YET HE IS NOT TWO, BUT ONE CHRIST; ONE NOT BY CONVERSION OF THE GODHEAD INTO FLESH; BUT **BY TAKING OF THE MANHOOD INTO GOD.**" (END QUOTE)

* AND BELOVED, THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE IS CHRIST DID NOT LAY ASIDE HIS DEITY, HIS DIVINITY, TO BECOME MAN, HE LAID ASIDE HIS GLORY, HIS MAJESTY THAT HE HAD IN HEAVEN WITH HIS FATHER TO BECOME MAN, QUOTE JOHN 17:5 AND JOHN 1:1-3, V. 14 – THE WORD BECAME FLESH.

** AND ONE OF THE GREAT TEXTS IN THE N.T. THAT COMMUNICATES THE MEANING OF THIS IS II CORINTHIANS 8:9, WHERE IT SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

*** NOW THIS VERSE TEACHES US NOT THE MARVEL OF NATURE IN THE INCARNATION, BUT **THE WONDER OF CHRIST'S GRACE. IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT WAS BEHIND THE PLAN OF GOD BECOMING MAN WAS GRACE. GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE, UNDESERVED, UNMERITED, DIVINE FAVOR WAS THE MOTIVE FOR THE INCARNATION.**

(9) THE ONE WHO WAS RICH IN GLORY, DIGNITY AND HAVING HEAVEN WORSHIPPING HIM, BECAME POOR, NOT ONLY MATERIALLY, BUT LIT. IN BECOMING MAN, LAYING ASIDE HIS GLORY.

* THAT WE THROUGH HIS POVERTY WOULD BECOME RICH, NOT IN TEMPORAL RICHES, BUT ETERNAL RICHES, SALVATION THROUGH **CHRIST'S SACRIFICIAL SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH.**

**** SO THE WHOLE N.T. STORY OF CHRIST'S**
INCARNATION IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING AND
EACH ACCOUNT OF HIS BIRTH SHOULD BE VERY
SPECIAL TO US THAT KNOW HIM BY HIS GRACE.

(10) AND LUKE 2 MAY WELL BE THE MOST
FAMILIAR AND BELOVED PORTION IN LUKE'S
GOSPEL.

* AND YES THE STORY IS OLD, BUT HOPEFULLY
IT IS FRESH FOR YOU, THAT BELIEVER, YOU WILL
NEVER TIRE OF IT, BUT THAT IT WILL BRING THE
RESPONSE OF PRAISE, ADORATION AND
WORSHIP.

*** AND SPECIFICALLY THIS MORNING I WANT
TO LOOK AT VV. 1-7 **WHICH I'VE TITLED, THE**
SONRISE!

**** **AND THE REASON I'VE TITLED IT THE SON**
RISE IS BECAUSE IN OUR STUDY LAST WEEK IN
ZACHARIAS' BENEDICTUS, HE PROPHESED AND
SAID THIS IN LUKE 1:78&79:

V. 78 - "BECAUSE OF THE TENDER MERCY OF OUR GOD, WITH WHICH THE SUNRISE FROM ON HIGH WILL VISIT US,

v. 79 - TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, TO GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE **WAY OF PEACE.**"

(11) NOW ZACHARIAS WAS THINKING OF HOW **WONDERFUL GOD'S MERCY IS, AND HOW GOD** WILL VISIT PEOPLE IN THE DARK WITH HIS LIGHT.

* IT IS TO SAY THE SUNRISE WOULD COME. AND ZACHARIAS IDENTIFIES THE MESSIAH AS THE SUNRISE, THE DAYSPRING, THE RISING SUN, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE.

** AND THIS PARTICULAR WORD TRANSLATED IN THE WAYS I HAVE JUST MENTIONED LIT. MEANS **"RISING" IN THE GREEK AND REFERS TO THE** FIRST LIGHT OF DAWN.

*** AND THUS ZACHARIAS DEPICTS JESUS THE SAVIOR AS THE GREAT LIGHT FROM HEAVEN WHO WILL SHINE THE LIGHT OF SALVATION UPON PEOPLE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS.

(12) AND THAT SAVIOR, WHO WAS PROPHESED IN THE O.T. OVER AND OVER, WOULD FINALLY COME, THE SON WOULD RISE, THE DAWN OF THE SAVIOR HAD COME, AND HE IS BORN IN LUKE 2:1-7, THUS THE TITLE, THE SONRISE.

*** NOW UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS. NO. 1 THE PERIOD OR TIMING OF THE LIGHT'S BIRTH, VV. 1-3; AND NO. 2 THE PLACE OF THE LIGHT'S BIRTH, VV. 4-7.**

** AND WITH THAT SIMPLE OUTLINE TO WORK FROM, LOOK AT **LUKE 2:1 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PERIOD OR TIME OF HIS BIRTH.**

I. THE PERIOD, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW JESUS' BIRTH WAS DATED BY LUKE AS FALLING IN THE REIGN OF WHOM? CAESAR AUGUSTUS. AND HE WAS OFFICIALLY MADE THE RULER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN 27 B.C. AND RULED TO A.D. 14. HE WAS THE NEPHEW OF JULIUS CAESAR AND TOOK OVER AFTER HIS **UNCLE'S DEATH.**

* NOW LITTLE DID AUGUSTUS CAESAR KNOW THAT HIS EDICT, HIS DECREE, WOULD BE USED BY GOD PROVIDENTIALLY TO BRING JOSEPH AND MARY TO BETHLEHEM FROM NAZARETH. FOR YOU SEE AUGUSTUS CAESAR WAS RULING, BUT GOD WAS IN CHARGE!! GOD WAS AND IS AND ALWAYS AND IS FOREVER ON THE THRONE.

**** AND ISN'T THAT A WONDERFUL THOUGHT**
AND TRUTH THAT GOD IS IN CHARGE AND THAT
HE IS IN CONTROL. I WOULD GO BANANAS IF I
DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GOD'S ABSOLUTE
SOVEREIGNTY AND HOW HE USES HUMAN
AUTHORITY TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES -
PROVERBS 21:1, ROMANS 13:1. AND HOW HE
USES ALL THINGS, ROMANS 8:28. SO NOTHING
HAPPENS TO US AS BELIEVERS WITHOUT
PURPOSE. THERE ARE NO ACCIDENTS OR
COINCIDENCES. GOD IS NEVER SURPRISED.

******* AND AUGUSTUS CAESAR WAS BEING USED BY
THE LORD, **HE WAS A PAWN OF GOD'S**
PROVIDENCE, AND SPECIFICALLY THE DECREE
BY CAESAR WAS FOR ALL THE ROMAN EMPIRE,
THE ROMAN WORLD. AND THE DECREE WAS
THAT ALL THE ROMAN WORLD WOULD BE
TAXED ACCORDING TO THE KING JAMES WHICH
LIT. MEANS A CENSUS WAS TO BE TAKEN,
TRANSLATED THAT WAY IN THE NIV AND IN THE
NASB WHICH I READ TO YOU EARLIER, AND
TRANSLATED REGISTERED IN THE ESV AND
NKJV.

1. AND WHAT HAPPENED WAS, ROME TOOK A CENSUS EVERY 14 YEARS FOR BOTH MILITARY AND TAX PURPOSES, AND EACH JEWISH MALE HAD TO RETURN TO THE CITY OF HIS FATHER TO RECORD HIS NAME, OCCUPATION, PROPERTY AND FAMILY FOR TAXATION PURPOSES. (NOW WITH THAT SAID, LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.)

B. READ V. 2. NOW SKEPTICS OF THE BIBLE POINT TO V. 2 OF LUKE 2 AND SAY THAT WHAT IS STATED IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY. FOR YOU SEE CYRENIUS ALSO CALLED QUIRINIUS IN MOST TRANSLATIONS WAS GOVERNOR IN SYRIA IN **A.D. 6&7, MUCH TOO LATE FOR JESUS' BIRTH.** (JESUS WAS BORN BEFORE THIS.)

* BUT THERE IS A SIMPLE SOLUTION, WHICH OF **COURSE MOST SKEPTICS OF THE WORD DON'T** WANT TO SEE, AND THAT IS THE GREEK WORD FIRST, PRO-TOS, HERE LIT. MEANS BEFORE, AS IT DOES FOR EXAMPLE IN JOHN 15:18.

** IN JOHN 15:18 JESUS SAID – **“IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, YOU KNOW THAT IT HAS HATED ME BEFORE (PRO-TOS) IT HATED YOU.”** **AND THE WORD BEFORE HERE IS FROM THE SAME GREEK ROOT WORD AS FIRST IN LUKE 2:2.**

*** AND IN LIGHT OF THAT LUKE 2:2 WOULD **THEN READ, “THIS WAS THE CENSUS THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE QUIRINIUS WAS GOVERNOR OF SYRIA, IN OTHER WORDS BEFORE A.D. 6 WHICH WORKS PERFECTLY.**

1. SO THERE'S NO CONTRADICTION HERE, DR. LUKE IS JUST GIVING US SOME HISTORICAL FACTS TO SET THE PERIOD AND TIME OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. (NOW LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE).

C. READ V. 3. NOW OBVIOUSLY PEOPLE OBEYED THE LAW IN THAT DAY, FOR ALL WHO HAD TO WERE GOING TO THE TOWN TO WHICH THE VILLAGE OR PLACE OF THEIR BIRTH BELONGED, AND WHERE THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF EACH WERE REGISTERED.

* IN OTHER WORDS, EACH MAN WENT TO THE TOWN WHERE HIS FAMILY REGISTER WAS KEPT FOR THIS CENSUS. SO A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE ON THE MOVE AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, THERE WAS A LOT OF HUSTLE AND BUSTLE.

** AND DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME OUR SAVIOR WAS BORN. NOW LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL SEE THE PLACE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH** AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IT - OUR SECOND POINT TODAY.

II. THE PLACE, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW FOR THIS CENSUS, JOSEPH AND MARY **WENT TO BETHLEHEM IN JUDEA, JOSEPH'S ANCESTRAL HOME** WHICH WAS ABOUT AN 80-90 MILE JAUNT FROM NAZARETH IN GALILEE.

- POWERPOINT THE MAP (GO OVER THE MAP)

* NOW NOTICE ALSO THAT IN V. 4 IT SAYS "JOSEPH ALSO WENT UP."

** AND DUE TO THE HEIGHT OF BETHLEHEM, 2,564 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL, TRAVELERS WOULD GO UP FROM NAZARETH WHICH WAS 1,830 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL TO BETHLEHEM EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE GOING SOUTH.

*** **DON'T YOU LOVE THE PERFECT ACCURACY OF OUR INFALLIBLE BOOK, THE BIBLE.**

**** NOW WITH THAT GEOGRAPHY BEFORE US, LUKE POINTS OUT IN THIS VERSE THAT JOSEPH WAS A DESCENDENT OF DAVID THE FORMER KING OF ISRAEL WHO WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, SO HIS LINEAGE WAS RICH.

***** AND AGAIN GOD THE FATHER WAS USING **CAESAR'S DECREE TO FULFILL THE PROPHECY** THAT HIS SON WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM, **PROPHESIED OVER 600 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH** IN MICAH 5:2, QUOTE IT.

***** SO BETHLEHEM WOULD BE THE PLACE.

1. AND BETHLEHEM LIT. MEANS HOUSE OF BREAD, THE IDEAL BIRTHPLACE FOR THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, FOR IN JOHN 6:35 JESUS SAID, (QUOTE IT).

* SO THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE LORD JESUS, WAS BORN IN THE HOUSE OF BREAD BETHLEHEM, SO THAT HE WOULD COME AND SATISFY THE HUNGER OF OUR SOULS FOREVER.

2. SO BETHLEHEM IS THE PLACE OF BREAD BIBLICALLY AND THE BIRTHPLACE OF KING DAVID. NOW LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 5. NOW MARY WENT WITH JOSEPH FOR THIS CENSUS TO BETHLEHEM PROBABLY FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS.

* NO. 1 THE COUPLE KNEW SHE WOULD HAVE THE BABY DURING THE TIME JOSEPH WAS GONE
- SHE WAS GREAT WITH CHILD. AND THEY MOST LIKELY DID NOT WANT TO BE SEPARATED AT THAT EVENT.

** AND NO. 2, BOTH OF THEM KNEW BY NOW ACCORDING TO LUKE 1 AND MATTHEW 1 THAT THE CHILD WAS THE MESSIAH. AND BEING DEVOUT JEWS, JOSEPH AND MARY POSSIBLY WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE MESSIAH WAS TO BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM, ACCORDING TO MICAH 5:2. SO RATHER THAN COMPLAINING, THEY SEE THE INVISIBLE HAND OF THE LORD GOD AT WORK.

1. BUT ALSO NOTICE IN V. 5 THAT MARY IS SAID TO BE ENGAGED TO JOSEPH OR IN THE KJV **CALLED JOSEPH'S ESPOUSED WIFE, ALSO IN THE** ESV AND PLEDGED IN THE NIV, AND THE WORD ESPOUSED OR ENGAGED OR PLEDGED HERE LIT. MEANS PROMISED, OR A PLEDGED WIFE AND HAS TO DO WITH THE JEWISH BETROTHAL.

* AND THE JEWISH BETROTHAL WAS A PLEDGE, A PROMISE, A KIND OF CONTRACT OR ENGAGEMENT THAT WOULD LAST FOR ABOUT 10-12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ACTUAL WEDDING WHEN THE MARRIAGE WAS FINALLY CONSUMMATED PHYSICALLY.

** AND WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IS THAT AN ENDOWMENT WOULD BE PAID TO THE PARENTS OF THE BRIDE AND WHEN IT WAS PAID THE MARRIAGE COVENANT WAS ESTABLISHED AND THEY WERE REGARDED AS HUSBAND AND WIFE EVEN THOUGH NO PHYSICAL UNION HAD TAKEN PLACE.

2. IT WAS A PERIOD OF TESTING AND PROBATION TO INSURE THE BRIDES VIRGINITY AND THE FIDELITY OF BOTH PARTNERS. AND MARY AND JOSEPH HAD MADE THIS COVENANT, BUT PHYSICAL SEXUAL CONSUMMATION BETWEEN THEM HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE YET. MARY WAS TRULY A VIRGIN, THE BABY THAT WAS IN HER WOMB WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND NOT JOSEPH.

* SO JOSEPH AND MARY WERE STILL IN THEIR PERIOD OF BETROTHAL OR ENGAGEMENT, THEY WERE ESPOUSED AND THEY WERE PURE. NOW LOOK AT V. 6.

C. READ V. 6. NOW WHILE MARY AND JOSEPH WERE AT BETHLEHEM, CHRIST WAS BORN. AND OF COURSE THIS WAS THE RIGHT TIME AT THE RIGHT PLACE, GALATIANS 4:4&5. IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME POLITICALLY, SOCIALLY AND PROPHETICALLY.

* NOW NO DOUBT THE TRIP FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM HAD TO PHYSICALLY DRAIN MARY, REMEMBER SHE WAS FULL TERM EITHER WALKING OR TRAVELING ON A DONKEY FOR 80-90 MILES.

**** AND IT'S NO WONDER SHE HAD THE BABY** WHILE THEY WERE THERE. I MEAN SOME OF YOU GUYS HAVE DONE SOME STRANGE THINGS TO GET YOUR WIVES INTO LABOR. (BUMPY ROADS, AMUSEMENT RIDES, RAKING GRASS).

***** BUT I'LL GO OUT ON A LIMB, GUYS** THAT HAVE FULL TERM PREGNANT WIVES, GO OUT **FOR AN 80 MILES DONKEY RIDE AND I'LL** GUARANTEE YOU THAT THE BABY WILL BE BORN RIGHT AWAY.

1. WELL, MARY WENT INTO LABOR AND DELIVERED JESUS AT BETHLEHEM, AT THE PROPER PLACE AT THE PROPER TIME. AND V. 7 TELLS US ABOUT THIS. LOOK AT IT PLEASE.

D. READ V. 7. NOW THE FACT THAT JESUS WAS **CALLED MARY'S FIRSTBORN IMPLIES NOT ONLY** WAS THIS HER FIRST CHILD BUT THAT LATER SHE HAD OTHER CHILDREN, AND OF COURSE WE READ OF HALF BROTHERS AND HALF SISTERS OF JESUS IN SCRIPTURE, IN MATTHEW 12:46&47, IN LUKE 8:19-21, IN MATTHEW 13:55&56. AND THEY WERE HALF BROTHERS AND HALF SISTERS BECAUSE THEY HAD DIFFERENT FATHERS. JESUS WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, **JOSEPH WAS THE FATHER OF MARY'S OTHER CHILDREN.**

* AND LET ME SAY HERE UNDER THAT, THAT THERE IS NOT A PARTICLE OF EVIDENCE FOR THE NOTION THAT MARY REFUSED TO BEAR OTHER CHILDREN BECAUSE SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH AS SOME TEACH, WHAT IS CALLED PERPETUAL VIRGINITY, THAT SHE WAS EVER A VIRGIN MAKING JESUS HER ONLY BIOLOGICAL CHILD.

** AND YES JESUS WAS HER FIRST CHILD, BUT SHE HAD OTHERS AFTER JESUS BY JOSEPH.

1. BUT ALSO NOTICE THAT SHE TOOK HER CHILD JESUS AND WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, IN THE KJV-IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, IN THE ESV SWADDLING CLOTHS AND NKJV. AND MOTHERS IN THAT DAY WRAPPED THEIR INFANTS IN LONG BANDS, LONG STRIPS OF CLOTH, SWADDLING CLOTHES, ROUND AND ROUND, TO GIVE THE **CHILD'S LIMBS STRENGTH AND PROTECTION.** AND THIS WAS A COMMON PRACTICE, SO THIS WAS NOT THAT UNUSUAL.

* AND THAT MARY WRAPPED THE CHILD HERSELF POINTS TO A LONELY BIRTH, JUST HER AND JOSEPH. NO MIDWIFE, NO MOM OR DAD OR FAMILY TO REJOICE WITH HER AND HELP HER.

**** NOW OBVIOUSLY THE LORD'S HAND WAS UPON THEM, AND THERE WAS PEACE, BUT ALSO LONELINESS.**

*** IT ALSO MEANT THE ANXIETY OF HAVING LABOR PAINS IN A STRANGE CITY, IT MEANT WIPING JESUS CLEAN.

**** BUT AFTER MARY WRAPPED JESUS IN SWADDLING CLOTHS, SHE LAID HIM IN A MANGER. AND THE WORD TRANSLATED MANGER HERE IS TRANSLATED STALL IN LUKE 13:15, AND CAN MEAN EITHER A FEEDING TROUGH OR AN ENCLOSURE FOR ANIMALS, PROBABLY A FEEDING TROUGH, A FEEDING CRIB, A PLACE WHERE CATTLE WERE FED. AND HOW UNSANITARY, THE GERMS, NO DOCTOR WITH A MASK AND LATEX GLOVES, JOSEPH WAS THE MID-WIFE, NO CRIB FOR A BED, NOT WHAT YOU WOULD CALL IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A STRANGE BIRTHING ROOM.

**** AND THE POINT IS, JESUS WAS LAID IN A LOWLY TROUGH FOR BARN ANIMALS WHEN HE WAS BORN, HIS HEAD RESTS WHERE CATTLE HAVE BEEN FED, A DINING PLACE FOR ANIMALS, WHERE THEY HAD EATEN, JESUS NOW SLEPT.

***** AND OF COURSE MARY AND JOSEPH HAD TO DO THIS BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN. THE INN WAS CROWDED WITH ALL OF THE PEOPLE TRAVELING FOR THE CENSUS AND BY THE TIME THEY GOT THERE, THERE WAS NO VACANCY, SO THEY STAYED IN EITHER A STABLE NEXT TO THE INN OR A CAVE USED FOR THAT NEAR IT, AS SOME TRADITION STATES. BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR A PREGNANT WOMAN.

***** JESUS HARDLY HAD A ROYAL WELCOME, HE WAS NOT TREATED LIKE A KING. AND IT **REMINDED ME OF PRINCE GEORGE'S RECENT** BIRTH TO PRINCE WILLIAM AND HIS WIFE CATHERINE, AND ALL THE MEDIA COVERAGE, AND HE HAS A RUBY CRUSTED 18-KARAT WHITE GOLD CHARM BRACELET THAT DOUBLES AS A DIAPER-RASH CREAM HOLDER.

- AND NOT TO BE OUT DONE, BLUE IVY CARTER, THE 18 MONTH OLD DAUGHTER OF JAY Z AND BEYONCE HAS AN \$80,000 DIAMOND ENCRUSTED BARBIE DOLL, A \$5,200 SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL STUDED BABY DIAMOND BATH TUB AND OVER A \$1,000 STROLLER.

2. HOWEVER, THE KING OF KINGS HAD A VERY HUMBLE BEGINNING. THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THE KING OF GLORY THAT NIGHT IN THE INN. AND THAT WAS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

* HE WAS NOT BORN INTO LUXURY, HE WAS NOT TREATED LIKE A PRINCE, BUT A PAUPER.

** AND NO CHILD BORN INTO THE WORLD THAT DAY SEEMED TO HAVE LOWER PROSPECTS. AND WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THIS IS WHERE CHRISTIANITY BEGAN, AND WHERE IT ALWAYS BEGINS - WITH A SENSE OF NEED, A GRACED **SENSE OF ONE'S INSUFFICIENCY.**

*** JESUS, HIMSELF SETTING THE EXAMPLE, COMES TO THE LOWLY, THOSE WHO SEE THEIR NEED, THOSE WHO SEE THEY ARE SIN SICK AND UNDESERVING. HE IS BORN ONLY IN THOSE **WHO ARE "POOR IN SPIRIT."**

**** FOR THE KEY VERSE IN LUKE IS LUKE 19:10 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE MATTHEW 18:11.

- FOLKS, JESUS SAVES THE LOWLY, NOT THE PROUD, AND IN HIS INCARNATION HE LAID ASIDE HIS MAJESTY, NOT HIS DEITY, BUT HIS GLORY TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS, PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11.

- AND IN THE INCARNATION THE SOVEREIGN BECAME A SERVANT TO ULTIMATELY GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY.

- **A CHRISTMAS HYMN PUTS IT THIS WAY, "OUT OF THE IVORY PALACES, INTO A WORLD OF WOE, ONLY HIS GREAT ETERNAL LOVE MADE MY SAVIOR GO." AND I AM SO THANKFUL HE DID.**

AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) THE MESSAGE **OF CHRIST'S BIRTH** IS THAT THERE IS HOPE FOR A RUINED HUMANITY, HOPE OF PARDON, HOPE OF PEACE WITH GOD, HOPE OF GLORY – TRUE TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY.

*** THE REASON BEING AT THE FATHER'S WILL** JESUS CHRIST BECAME POOR AND WAS BORN IN A STABLE SO THAT A LITTLE OVER THIRTY YEARS LATER HE MIGHT HANG ON A CROSS.

** AND THAT IS THE MOST WONDERFUL MESSAGE THAT THE WORLD HAS EVER HEARD OR WILL HEAR. JESUS, THE GOD-MAN WAS BORN TO DIE.

(2) FOLKS THOSE LITTLE SOFT HANDS OF **MARY'S FIRSTBORN SON, FASHIONED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MARY'S WOMB WERE MADE SO** THAT NAILS MIGHT BE DRIVEN THROUGH THEM. JESUS WAS BORN AND LIVED IN THE SHADOW OF **THE CROSS. IT'S AS IF THE CROSS WAS** THERE IN THE STABLE HANGING OVER THE CHRIST CHILD THAT NIGHT.

* AND TO THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST, WHO ARE NOT IN HIM, NOT SAVED, COME TO HIM TODAY. MAY THERE BE THE RESPONSE OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH (FOR CHRIST CAME TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM SIN, QUOTE MATTHEW 1:21 AND LUKE 2:11 AND EXPLAIN.) BOW TO HIM TODAY. THE SONRISE HAS COME!

(3) LAST OF ALL IN APPLICATION TO

BELIEVERS, THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR JESUS IN THE INN. HE WAS LAID IN A MANGER, THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR **SAVIOR'S BIRTH, LIFE** AND DEATH WERE FILLED WITH HUMILITY, HE WAS AND IS SHOVED ASIDE BY THE WORLD, TREATED WITH DISRESPECT AND INDIGNITY. NO ROOM FOR HIM.

* BUT HOW ABOUT US? ARE YOU KEEPING A PLACE OPEN FOR HIM IN YOUR MORNING ROUTINE? DO YOU HAVE A QUIET TIME?

** IS THERE ROOM FOR HIM IN YOUR DAILY ACTIVITIES AT WORK, AT HOME, AT SCHOOL?

*** ARE YOU MAKING A PLACE FOR HIM IN YOUR HOME, YOUR APARTMENT, WHERE YOU LIVE?

**** DO YOU HAVE ANY ROOM FOR JESUS IN YOUR BUDGET?

(4) BELOVED, JESUS DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE SHOVED ASIDE. HE WANTS TO BE PREEMINENT, OUR FIRST LOVE, AND IS WORTHY TO BE THE HUB OF OUR WHEEL. MAY HE BE THAT!

* AND BEYOND THAT, LASTLY, THE HUMILITY OF CHRIST OUGHT TO HUMBLE US.

** YET WE ARE INCLINED TO INSIST ON OUR OWN WAY - TO THINK THAT WE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN WE REALLY ARE.

*** WE GET ANGRY WITH PEOPLE WHEN WE ARE NOT TREATED RIGHT. WE WANT HONOR, NOT HUMILITY, WE HAVE RIGHTS!

**** BUT UNDERSTAND, THERE IS HONOR IN HUMILITY, THERE IS DIVINITY IN HUMILITY, IN TRUE GODLINESS.

(5) FOR THE SAME JESUS WHO HUMBLING HIMSELF FOR OUR SALVATION ALSO WANTS US TO HUMBLE OURSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

* HE CALLS US TO BE LIKE HIM IN PUTTING OTHERS FIRST AND TAKING THE LOWEST PLACE FOR OURSELVES.

** WE MUST NEVER EVER FORGET THAT ALTHOUGH HE IS GOD, THE SAVIOR WE SERVE WAS WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LAID IN A MANGER, FOR THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR HIM AT THE INN.

*** MAY WE REJOICE IN HIM TODAY. MAY WE **REJOICE THAT THE SUNRISE HAS COME! (LET'S PRAY)**