



Week 6 – The unexpectedness of God

Luke 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

1/ God's plan is not what we expect

God is able to orchestrate 300 prophecies given 100's of years before Christ, together with an ungodly Roman emperor, an unknown Roman official, a 13 year old virgin and a humble carpenter to achieve his purposes.

The sovereignty of God should give us immense courage, peace & certainty in life.

2/ God's way is not what we expect

6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

100 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem – 'heavy with child'

Firstborn son – another indicator that Mary did not remain a virgin.

Swaddling cloths – used to comfort and keep the infants limbs still to avoid damage

'Inn' - likely in a cave next to the house or possibly the lower area of a house where the animals usually kept. Likely that the animals would have been driven out.

Manger – literally animal feeding trough.

Mary must have had questions!!

God's making a point!

The three things that resisted Jesus were pride of man, the religious spirit of man, control of man

Pride – born into humility amongst the poor

Religion – born without any required 'externals' to access God

Ungodly control – born in weakness.

If we want to come to God and be used by God we must strip ourselves of all three of these things.

Pride - serve, apologise, forgive, be grateful

Religion – stop trying to earn, be authentic, receive freely

Ungodly control – trust, relax, fight for peace, let others make choices

3/ God's majesty is not what we expect

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary

treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Shepherds – lowly, outcasts. Lived remote areas visiting town infrequently. The last people that would know. Irony that Jesus the ‘Good Shepherd’ wanted to be known first to shepherds.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

a/ Christ the Lord...

The Word *Lord (Kyrios)* Used of Christ: Sometimes the word *Lord* is used simply as a polite address to a superior, roughly equivalent to our word *sir*. But this word is used to translate the name of the Lord (“Yahweh” or “Jehovah.”) 6,814 times in the Greek Old Testament.

“Any Greek-speaking reader at the time who had any knowledge at all of the Greek Old Testament would have recognized that ... the word “Lord” was the name of the one who was the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, the omnipotent God.” Wayne Grudem

b/ Is born....

God experienced the trauma of human birth. He didn’t just change into flesh so that he was no longer God he took on and became flesh without losing any of his deity. He took on a real human being with flesh, consciousness, emotions, temptations, sweat, blood and tears. Minus only sin.

Questions

1. Did Jesus come into existence at his birth

Jehovah’s Witnesses teach this. Micah 5:2 that Jesus’ origins would be from ancient times, literally, from eternity past. John 1, “**in the beginning** was the Word,”

2. Did God have intimate relations with Mary?

Mormons teach that God impregnated Mary. Horrible heresy. The Bible doesn’t teach that at all. The angel Gabriel said, “It will be a miracle, the Holy Spirit” —not God the Father, the Holy Spirit

3. Is Jesus God or man?

“Remaining what he was, he became what he was not.” In other words, while Jesus continued “remaining” what he was (that is, fully divine) he also became what he previously had not been (that is, fully human as well).

POINT: Suffering? Pain? Tired? Betrayed? Hated? Rejected? Lonely? He experienced it all. He lived it.

“In a world filled with suffering and pain, I could not fathom worshipping a God who was immune to it.” John Stott

c/ A Saviour – he must be both God and man.

Why do we need a saviour? Sin.

The wages of sin is death. Only Man could die. Only God could take the sins of the whole world.

“No-one comes to the Father but through me.” According to Jesus all ways do not lead to God. **HE is the way to God.**

4/ Our response

Are you amazed?

Are you joyful?

Are you glorifying and praising God?

If not, be like Mary and ponder over these things again.

You must have missed something!