**A Savior is Born**

**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days… The man who thought he was king…

All of history points to this moment in time.

The entire Bible points to this time.

God chooses a man of faith: Abraham

God chooses a people: Israel

God calls the out of slavery in Egypt

God gives them a Law at Sinai

God gives them a Land

God gives them a king who is a prefigure of the Messiah

God sends them prophets to call them to repentance

God sends John the Baptist to prepare the way

Last of all, God comes in the form of a baby in a manger in Bethlehem.

God’s plan of salvation, anticipated throughout the Hebrew Bible, is coming to fulfillment in Bethlehem.

Secular history points to this time.

In Canaan—literally the center of the world. The crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe.

For the first time in history there was literally a world language—Greek

For the first time in history there was a world empire with more than a century of peace—the Pax Romana with a wider system of roads in any time in history before the 19th century.

Augustus (whose name means the divine one) calls for a census for tax purposes. The king thinks he is in control. The king, Augustus, who allowed himself to be called “Son of God,” paved the way for the real Son of God. The king who ushered in the Pax Romana called for the census which fulfilled a prophecy about the King of Peace. (on earth, peace….)

Romans 5:6 At just the right time, while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

v. 4-5 But he fulfills God’s purpose because the Messiah has to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) So… “Joseph went from Nazareth to Judea.”

Luke 2:6-7

God turns every expectation of the world upside down.

A king is born.

A Savior is born.

Who is to be king? A peasant child, the baby of an unmarried teenage girl.

From a poor region of the Roman empire

v. 7 There was no room for them at the inn.

Great symbolism. No room for the King of kings and Lord of lords.

What about you? Do you have room for Jesus in your life?

Luke 2:8-15

God does not announce the Messiah to the rich or the powerful.

Announced to shepherds.

The Good Shepherd is announced to shepherds. An angel of the Lord (Gabriel?)

v. 9 They were terrified. You would have been too. God turned something we fear (like coming face-to-face with God) in to something to take joy in…

v. 10-11 What is the Good News?

A theme verse of all of Luke: **“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is the Messiah the Lord.”**

A Savior has been born!!!!

A baby will be a Savior and Messiah, but he will also be Lord.

In Luke/Acts salvation is not principally about the future, it is about being saved now.

Jesus is one who will save us from judgment and hell, but also:

One who will save us from ourselves

One who will save us from slavery to sin

One who will save us from have-to living—setting us free from obligation to law.

One who will save us from loneliness, isolation and life without purpose

Is he your Savior?

Will you submit to Jesus as Lord so that he can be your Savior?

Because if he is not your Lord, he is not your Savior. (Acts 2:36 God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Messiah)

How can you come more fully into the lordship of Jesus?

How might you more fully embrace the salvation that he has given you?

v. 13-14 A vast company of angels praising God.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven.

And on earth, peace to those on whom his favor rests.

This baby is to be the Prince of Peace.

Peace with who? Peace with God. All of us were at war with God at one time, but in Jesus we have peace. Everything is made right.

v. 15 The angels suddenly disappear.

Shepherds. Wow! That was awesome! Let’s go see the Savior.

Luke 2:16-20

With the birth of Jesus it is announced that the powerful will be made low and the lowly will be lifted up by the lowly child-King.

v. 16 The world expects a king to come in majesty, in glory, but Jesus is lying in a feeding trough.

How ironic!

v. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child v. 20 What was the shepherd’s response? They glorified and praised God for what they had seen and heard. They went out and shared their faith with everyone they saw.

2:19 Mary “pondered all these things in her heart.”

Great advice for you over the Christmas holiday. You should ponder the prophesied birth of Jesus, but also his role as Savior and as Lord.

Luke 2:21 The baby is called Jesus. Yeshua. God saves

Luke 2:22-35 Jesus presented at the temple.

v. 22-24 Two things are happening here:

1. Jewish law required the dedication of every first-born son (Exodus 13:2, 15).

2. Jewish law also required that a woman who gave birth to go through a purification rite on the eighth day(Leviticus 12:6).

Here both the piety of Joseph and Mary and the role of Jesus as first-born over all creation (Colossians 1:15) are emphasized. (first-born Luke 2:7)

v. 25-35 While fulfilling the Law (and prophecy) they meet Simeon, a righteous and pious man.

v. 25 the Holy Spirit was on him. v. 26 it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. v. 27 moved by the Spirit. We see the Holy Spirit taking a major role here (a big theme in Luke)

What do we learn from Simeon?

1. v. 31-32 All nations… A light of revelation to the Gentiles and Israel (Eph 2:11-18 you who were far are brought near. Made the two one. Destroyed the barrier one humanity out of two… 3:4-6 the Mystery revealed)

2. v. 34 a sign spoken against. Jesus is counted among the outcast and oppressed. He will cause the fall of those who think they are great and the rise of those who are humble. Not everyone will like Jesus and not everyone will like you if you are a Christian.

1. He will bring people together who would never have been together.

2. He separates between those who will follow him and those who will not.

Which side of this fence will you fall on?

3. He will reveal the thoughts of your heart. Q: What is the thought of your heart?

Luke 2:36-38 Anna. A prophetess!! She worshiped night and day in the temple.

She spoke about the child and redemption to all who would listen.

Q: What about you? Who will you speak to about this child?

Luke 2:39-40

Joseph and Mary had obeyed the Law. They returned to Nazareth in Galilee, fulfilling Isaiah 9:1, 6-7 as prefigured in the life of Jonah.

Who is this child?

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given

And the government will be on his shoulders,

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace… (read v. 7)

This is the baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem.