

The Journey

Luke 2:1-7 - “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. **2**(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) **3**And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. **4**And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) **5**To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. **6**And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. **7**And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

I. Caesar Augustus

- A. Emperor of the Roman Empire from 27 B.C. - 14 A.D., he ruled for 41 years
- B. Required everyone to register for tax purposes by a census in their hometown
- C. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, 101 miles from Nazareth

II. Mary Travels With Joseph = Prophetic Journey

- A. Did not want to be separated when Jesus was born
- B. Mary's ancestral home was also from Bethlehem
- C. Journeyed along the Jordan River – called the Desert Road then from Jericho across the Jordan Mountains – a hard trip to fulfill prophecy

Micah 5:2 - “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

III. Mary The Espoused Wife

- A. The marriage contract had been signed between them and their families
- B. The final part, the Huppah – providing a home had not been completed by Joseph and a ring given
- C. When Joseph thought Mary was pregnant by another man, he would have had to divorce her

Matthew 1:18-20 - “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **19**Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. **20**But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

IV. Arrived At Bethlehem

- A. No room in any inn – a cave for animals was given so the baby could be born
- B. Joseph delivers Jesus

V. Visiting Shepherds

- A. Shepherds Field = lambs raised for Passover sacrifice
- B. Angels Announce “A Savior is born, the Messiah who is Lord (Adonai)”
- C. Sign = a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger in Bethlehem

Luke 2:16-18 - “And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. **17**And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. **18**And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”