

12.11.22/ Who? Luke 2.1-20

Luke 2:1-20

What? A census, a journey, a baby's birth, a big announcement

When? A specific time redemptive history

Who? 7 people/groups/characters in this story

1. Caesar Augustus

He was born in 63 BC. He was the great nephew and adopted heir of Julius Caesar.

His birth name was Octavian. Upon being declared Emperor by the Senate in 27 BC he became known as Augustus... Caesar Augustus.

After Julius Caesar, the name "Caesar" became the dynastic name of all Roman emperors over the next century. The word Caesar became synonymous with Tsar or Kaiser, Ruler, King or Lord.

Caesar Augustus was seen as, and **sought to be Lord/Ruler/King**. His **census** was an effort to gather information about the extent of his reign. He was giving **decrees** that would secure and sustain his reign.

Caesar Augustus sought to be lord.

Can you relate to Caesar Augustus? Do you ever seek to be or act as... lord/ruler/king... perhaps of your own life? Is that a position that you grasp or that you freely give to another?

2. Joseph

He was from the **line of David** (2 Samuel 7:11b-13) "**Forever...**"

Most of what we know about Joseph comes from Matthew 1:19-24.

He **followed the law** and the **Lord**. He was **kind**.

God, through this messenger, invites Joseph to turn His life upside down and **Joseph Followed the Lord**

Can you relate to Joseph? Has God ever invited you to **turn your life upside down**? Did you? I used to believe... (difficult path that's incredibly worth it) From an earthly perspective Joseph was wrecking his life but from a Heavenly perspective he was doing one of the most important earthly things ever done. *Pause and pray.*

3. Mary

Many scholars conclude that she was also in the ancestral the line of David.

She was brought up in Nazareth and likely was a teenager when she was betrothed to Joseph.

Betrothal in Jewish custom lasted a year.

Mary responds *incredibly* to Angel's announcement. See Lk 1:26-33

God, through this messenger, brings Mary news of the **blessing** that... her life is going to be turned upside down! **Mary received the Lord.**

Has God ever **blessed** news that your life was about to be turned upside down for His glory? Parents... Teenagers...

4. Shepherds

Lowly, simple, uneducated bunch watching the flocks at night.

Completely underservingly... they receive the most spectacular message that has ever been given: The **sight** and the **message** of the angels – *a great company of angels!*

God, through his messengers, delivers spectacular news to unsuspecting and undeserving shepherds.

The shepherds experienced the Lord.

Has God ever blessed you with His undeserved presence or revelation? We worship a God who is ready and willing to reveal Himself... regardless of who you are.

5. Angels

The word angel comes from both Hebrew and Greek words that mean *messenger*. It's always understood if not clearly stated in the context that this messenger is one of the heavenly beings or heavenly hosts. In general, the work of angels is to execute God's universal will in heaven and on earth. According to scripture: An angel of the Lord brought important messages to Abraham, Sarah, Balaam, Gideon, David, and Elijah. An Angel of the Lord brought judgment after David's census, judgement on Sennacherib's army, and judgement on (Ahab's) army. **An Angel of the Lord may bring blessing or judgment** – Psalm 34:7 *"The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them."*

Angels are fantastic spiritual beings that move freely from the spiritual realm to the earthly realm – they are messengers of the Lord... **Angels are sent by the Lord.**

Can you relate? Have you been sent by the Lord to deliver a message? Are you delivering that message?

6. Jesus

V 11 - This tells us four very significant things about Jesus.

Town of David (line of David)

(2 Sam 7:13) A King in the line of David will establish an everlasting Kingdom.

Isaiah 9:6-7 – A king in the line of David will establish an everlasting reign.

Savior

Deliverer – in rest of NT this always refers to one who brings people from spiritual death to spiritual life. A deliverer... not just any deliverer...

The Messiah – Anointed One, Christos (Greek)

The OT points to the *Messiah* countless times (a specific deliverer):

Isaiah 11 - A **deliverer** would come from the line of David

40-43 – the Lord will rescue His people through a mighty **deliverer**

49-53 – servant of the Lord who will **deliver** His people
Psalm 45:6-7 & Daniel 2:44 – Messiah’s throne will be anointed & eternal
Isaiah 9:1-2 **Deliver** - Would bring light to Galilee
Isaiah 61:1-2 **Deliver** - Heal the broken hearted
Psalm 2:6 Zechariah 9:9 **Deliver** - Would be called king
Psalm 82 **Deliver** - Would be praised by little children

*Town of David / Savior / Messiah / **The Lord*** – Kyrios, Master, Ruler

Caesar tried to be lord. / Joseph followed the Lord.
Mary received the Lord. / The Shepherds experienced the Lord.
The Angels were sent by the Lord. / **Jesus is the Lord.**

This is an amazing story! It kind of makes one want to read the rest of this book...

7. You

V 10 **all the people**” So... who are you? If you go on to read... and place faith in Jesus, I’ll tell you who you are. You are...

Adopted as God’s child
Have been justified
United with the Lord
One with Him in spirit
Redeemed and forgiven
Free from condemnation
Salt and light of the earth
Branch of the true vine
Minister of reconciliation
Seated with Christ in the heavenly realm
God’s temple
God’s coworker
God’s workmanship

That’s **who** you are if you place faith in Jesus.

And it’s all possible because **Jesus is Lord**. He is God with us. He came to earth and He’s coming again!