

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Dec 2023 Genesis 01 The First Week
- 2) 10 Dec Genesis 02 The First Couple
- 3) 17 Dec Genesis 03 The First Sin
- 4) 24 Dec **Luke 02:1-15** **The First Christmas**
- 5) 31 Dec Genesis 04-05 The First Murder
- 6) 07 Jan 20 Genesis 06-07 Judgment
- 7) 14 Jan Genesis 08 Land!
- 8) 21 Jan Genesis 09-10 Protect
- 9) 28 Jan Genesis 11 Stalled
- 10) 04 Feb Genesis 12-14 Promised
- 11) 11 Feb Genesis 15-16 Impatience
- 12) 18 Feb Genesis 17 Established
- 13) 25 Feb Genesis 18-20 Purged

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is born amidst humble surroundings. How much would we whine and complain if our kids were born under such 3rd-world or ghetto-like conditions?

Passage	Comments
Luke 2:1-7	<p>The Birth of Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was Jesus born in an open stable, a cave, or the basement of a relative's house? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v7. "No room in the 'inn' – the "inn" word here is actually misinterpreted. A better translation is "there was no room in the 'guest room'" – see Luke 22:11 & Mat 14:14 where this word [grk. kataluma] is used to describe the "guest room" where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover ♦ Besides, Bethlehem was too small to have a hotel ♦ Luke uses the term for an inn in Luke 10:34 where he tells the story of the Good Samaritan taking a wounded man to an "inn" [grk. pandocheion] ♦ Mary likely gave birth to Jesus in the opened lower level of a crowded in-law's house, where animals might have been brought in for the night. She then wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger (an animal feeding trough used as a crib) • Why such a humble beginning for the King of Kings? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Why couldn't Jesus be born and raised in Herod's palace with notoriety and pomp for 30 years? ♦ Consider this. Jesus' humbled beginnings allowed God to empathize through Jesus' real-life experiences with the vast majority of humans born throughout the world since the creation of man ♦ Other reasons?
Were animals kept in the house?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was customary to bring animals into the lower level of a house to protect them from weather and thieves • Judges 11:30-40. The account of Jephthah records he vowed to sacrifice the first thing which came out of his house upon his return from fighting the Ammonites • Apparently, he expected an animal to come out of his house. Instead his only daughter came out, and she remained a virgin all her days (though some believe she was sacrificed – but that flies against God's laws)
2:8-20	<p>The Shepherds and Angels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13. Why did the angels appear to the lowest class of people working in the dreary darkness and not to the wealthier, political, or religious class residing in the city? • Shepherds were usually kids, slaves, or immigrants who couldn't get a better paying job anywhere else • Since the angels told the shepherds the Messiah would be found lying in a feeding trough it probably didn't take them long to find Him in a small town like Bethlehem

Passage	Comments
What Did the Angels Say?	<p>To Joseph: But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "<i>Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.</i>"Matthew 1:20-21</p> <p>To Mary: The angel said, "<i>Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.</i>" Mary was greatly troubled at his words & wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "<i>Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, & you are to call him Jesus. He will be great & will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, & he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.</i>" Luke 1:28-34</p> <p>To the Shepherds: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, watching their flock during the night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Then the angel told them, "<i>Stop being afraid! Listen! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. Today your Savior, the Lord Messiah, was born in the City of David. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a feeding trough.</i>" Luke 2:8-12</p> <p>To God: Suddenly, a multitude of the Heavenly Army appeared with the angel, praising God by saying, "<i>Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to people who enjoy his favor!</i>" Luke 2:13-14</p>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- We American's living in our high-tech society can't even imagine being born and raised in almost deplorable 3rd world conditions. And, yet, that is how our Lord and Savior was presented to the world.
- How should we then live?
 - ♦ While it is day (IOW, while we have it so good here and now), let us be about the Lord's work to live obediently for Him, to share Him with others, maintain a strong and growing testimony
 - ♦ Other ways we should live out our faith?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 4-5. Sin enters the camp & ruins everything. God is not taken by surprise & has a Reconciliation Plan all ready.

