

**GRACE TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAWNSIDE**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS LESSON**

**HE'S HERE**

God loves us so much that He prepared us over thousands of years to receive His only Son in ways that He promised but were not understood. The arrival of our Savior is Great News!

**The Anointed One**

- The Anointed One was used for others as well as the promised Savior. (Psalm 105:15)
- The Anointed One was used for others. (Leviticus 6:22)
- Other servants of God were considered to be anointed also. (I Samuel 24:6-7)
- Prophets pointed to The Anointed One. (Luke 7:16-17)
- Priests pointed to The Anointed One. (Hebrews 8:1,6)
- Kings pointed to The Anointed One (Revelation 17:14; 19:16)

**The Coming Messiah**

- The name the Jews used for the Savior that God promised to send. (Daniel 9:25-26)
- This title was still used in Jesus' time. (John 1:41,45)
- This title was also known by others. (John 4:7, 25-26)
- The Messiah would be greater than all other messiahs. (Psalm 45:7)
- The Messiah would be anointed as greater than all other messiahs. (Isaiah 42:1)
- Jesus was anointed. (Luke 3:21-22)
- Jesus made sure people recognized Him as the fulfillment of prophecy. (Luke 4:17-21)

**The Line of David**

- What Joseph being of the line of David has to do with going to Bethlehem.
- David, the greatest king of Israel, was from Bethlehem. (I Samuel 17:12)
- David's great grandparents, Boaz and Ruth, were from Bethlehem.  
(Ruth 1:22; 2:1; 4:13,17)
- Mary went with Joseph to be officially registered as a property owner. (Luke 2:5)
- God's eternal plan that Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
- Bethlehem means house of bread. How is this significant. (John 6:35)

**The Messiah is Born**

- Genealogies reveals Jesus as the promised Messiah. (Matthew 1:22-23)
- The universal calling of the Messiah. (Matthew 2:1-6)
- Prophecy fit the event principle. (Matthew 2:13-15)
- Jesus is born at a specific historical time. (Luke 2:1-2)
  - Caesar Augustus (44BC-19AD)
  - Quirinius (Cyrenius) was governor of Syria (6-4BC and 6-9AD)
  - During a census of the entire Roman world

- Census was taken every 14 years. One was known to be taken in 6AD.
  - Roman law: Whoever has property in another city must deliver his tax declaration in that city.
  - In Palestine, many had ownership in property of “patriarchal houses”.
  - Romans surveyed & valued property, registered and verified owners were taxed accordingly.
  - Everyone went to his own town to register, time to verify credentials.
  - “O’ Little Town of Bethlehem” = Bethlehem means house of bread.
  - Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem (72 miles, 3 days).

### **Born in a Manger**

- After getting to Bethlehem, Mary goes into labor. (Luke 2:6)
- The royal and special treatment did God’s only Son receive upon birth. (Luke 2:7)
- This did not change after Jesus was revealed as the Messiah. (Matthew 8:20)
- There was no room in the inn. (Luke 2:3)
  - Khan (caravansary): Square, single-story building with open, unfurnished recesses
  - Traveler brought his own carpet, food, water, and paid little for shelter
  - Leewans (recesses) provided on first-come, first-served basis
  - Late-comers could stay with animals penned in back of khan, often in caves

Note the birthing procedures in Jesus time:

- Joseph’s role = Jewish men didn’t act as midwives
- Mary’s role = Jewish women were proud of delivering their own babies
- Salt = Baby washed, then salt rubbed on body to prevent infection
- Swaddling cloths = Strips of cloth wrapped tight around a baby like a mummy for first 6 months.
- Swaddling cloths were intended to straighten body from fetal position and to keep arms & legs from swinging.
- According to Ezekiel 16:4-5, not having been wrapped was a sign of neglect and being unloved.

### **The First to Hear**

- Dignitaries and leaders were not the first to learn about the Messiah’s birth. (Luke 2:8)
- Other people saw the newborn Messiah. (Matthew 2:1-2)
- This birth made a Godly point. (Revelation 5:9)

### **The Glory of the Lord**

- Shepherds were normally quiet and boring during the night. (Luke 2:9)
- God revealed His glory in the past. (Exodus 40:34-35)

### **The Message**

- After calming the shepherds, the angel had a message. (Luke 2:10)
- The great news. (Luke 2:11)
- The names the angel gave Jesus:
  - Titus 3:4-7 = Savior: Saved us to be justified by His grace for eternal life
  - John 1:41, 45 = Christ (Messiah): The one God promised, The Anointed One
  - John 20:28 = Lord: God, ruler, king (*used instead of saying God's holy name, Yahweh*)
- The shepherds know they weren't hallucinating from the sheep smells.
- The other angels in heaven held themselves back at this great time. (Luke 2:13-14)

### **The Sign**

- The shepherds stayed with the sheep trying to figure out what they had seen. (Luke 2:15-16)

### **The First Evangelists**

- After seeing Jesus, the shepherds remember their sheep and go back to them. (Luke 2:7)
- Peter explains why those who receive Jesus must spread the news. (Acts 4:20)
- A strange message from the shepherds was received. (Luke 2:18-19)
- After running throughout Bethlehem, the shepherds finally go check on their sheep. (Luke 2:20)
- The shepherds give us the following sequence on responding to God's gospel: they heard, believed, obeyed, received, testified, rejoiced, and praised.