

THE BIRTH OF THE KING

Luke 2:1-20 / Yeshua §§10-11
Next Week: Luke 2:21-38 / §§12-13

Palaces, royal heralds, trumpets, crowds, feasts, gifts and a massive celebration. That is what one would expect for the birth of a king. We have recently studied the birth and early days of John the Baptizer (Luke 1:5-24; 39-80) and we saw an Angel, a priest, miracles, prophecies, and crowds of people leaving the event thinking of these things, saying in expectation and excitement "What will this child be?". And if John is just the one who goes before the King, imagine how much greater the birth event of the King will be! Well, what we will see in our study today is that the birth of the King did defy all expectation, but rather than in celebration and notoriety, he was born in silence and obscurity.

Part 1.	The Coming of the King <i>The Birth of the King</i>
Part 2.	The Authentication of the King
Part 3.	The Controversy over the King
Part 4.	The Training of the Twelve by the King
Part 5.	The Opposition to the King:
Part 6.	The Preparation of the Disciples by the King
Part 7.	The Official Presentation of the King
Part 8.	The Preparation for the Death of the King
Part 9.	The Trial of the King:
Part 10.	The Death of the King
Part 11.	The Resurrection and the Ascension of the King
Part 12.	The Sequels

THE KING IS HERE (LUKE 2:1-7A)

As Luke described the events that caused Joseph to head out toward Bethlehem, there is a ramping up of the Messianic expectation. Joseph and his pregnant wife Mary are heading out to the "city of David" (in fulfillment of Micah 5:2). Luke makes a point to twice mention David, helping to remind us of the fact that this coming baby is heir to the throne and the rightful King of Israel! Everything seems to be going according to plan, yet in one simple sentence, Luke reveals that the King is born, but certainly not like anyone would have expected.

THE KING'S UNUSUAL BEGINNINGS (LUKE 2:7)

Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger because there was no place for the King in the inn? How can this be? Where is the palace and the beautiful robes and pillows? Where are the handmaids and people and the celebration? Nowhere to be found. To say this was an unusual and unexpected beginning for a King would be an understatement. We see him wrapped in common cloth strips and lying in a feeding trough located in a cave for animals, and there is no one there to celebrate and cheer and rejoice in the new King. Just two common Jews who aren't even married yet. This is the definition of humble and unexpected beginnings. When we look back on the scene of John's birth, it stands in stark contrast to the birth of the Messiah. It reveals to us at the very beginning of this story, that God's plan does not correspond with man's expectations. This will be a theme we see throughout the whole story.

AN UNUSUAL AUDIENCE FOR THE KING'S MESSENGERS (LUKE 2:8-14)

Luke moves the scene to a nearby pasture covered with sheep and some shepherds who are taking turns keeping watch during the darkness of night. It is this band of shepherds that God decided to inform first of the wonderful news of the birth of the King. Humble, common and obscure shepherds, to go along with a humble, common and obscure birth. God's messengers however will break this trend and stand out in stark contrast. Angels appear along with the "glory of the Lord" to inform these shepherds that the King is born, and give instructions as to where the King can be found. A place the shepherds have plenty of information about. This heavenly host praises and glorifies God and then they are gone back to heaven, just as quickly as they had appeared. These humble shepherds look at one another and set off in search of this "Savior, Messiah and Lord".

RESPONSES TO THE KING AND HIS MESSENGERS (LUKE 2:15-20)

The shepherds found this newborn King just as the heavenly messengers described. We can only imagine what a strange sight this was. Two common and unknown parents sitting in a dark cave, when a group of shepherds come in looking for a baby and explaining how they knew he would be in this place. These shepherds had believed the messengers, and once they had seen with their eyes that the King had been born, they returned to their work, through Bethlehem, glorifying God and praising Him for what they had heard and seen.

As we consider this very familiar story, we see three different responses to the birth of the King and the angelic messengers. First we see “all those” who are hearing from the shepherds the story of what God told them and how they saw their “Savior, Messiah and Lord”. This group of people responded with wonder and marveled at what they were hearing. This response doesn’t mean they believed, just that they were taken aback by the story. Second, we see the response of the shepherds. They heard the truth and followed the angels instructions, to find the King in the manger. They responded by glorifying God and praising Him for both the message and the Messiah, and spreading this “good news of great joy for all mankind”. We see in them a simple faith and response to what God is doing. They are not shocked or confused as to how their Messiah is in a manger, rather than a palace. What they would have been taught about the Messiah, which surely wasn’t this picture, doesn’t seem to hinder their joyous response at all. Lastly we see the response of Mary, the betrothed yet unmarried virgin, who just delivered this divine child in absolute obscurity, laid him in a feeding trough, with no one around, and the first visitors aren’t priests or Jewish leaders, or a crowd of family and friends to celebrate, but a tattered group shepherds. This is far different than what she has been taught regarding the Messiah King who would come to deliver the Jews. In fact it doesn’t seem like it could be any more different! However, she takes what she has experienced and what she has heard from the shepherds and she “treasured them up and pondered them in her heart”. She is remembering these things over and over and seemingly trying to piece together what exactly is going on with her baby boy. We are going to see this happen again as Mary wrestles with her own expectations and ideas as to what God’s plan is for her son. There doesn’t seem to be any doubt about who her baby is, but rather she seems to be trying to figure out how all these things are fitting together in God’s plan, despite the fact that these things are so very different than anyone could have expected.

Grace News and Notes

Grace Membership Class: March 31st, 8:30am in Youth Room

Parenting Class (5 week): *Homes of Honor*: March 19th @ 5:30pm @ Pregnancy Care Clinic

Pregnancy Care Clinic: *Tea With Thee*: March 23 @ 1:00pm, Contact Rita @ 619-244-1832

Women’s Ministry Brunch: March 30 @ 9:30am, Sign Up on Patio

Walk For Life: April 27th, 8:30am @ Collier Park: Sponsorship Information on Patio