**For Unto Us a Child is Born!**

**Luke 2:1-20**

 “The coming of Jesus into the world is the most stupendous event in human history.”

— **Malcolm Muggeridge**

**Philippians 2:5-8** “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, (repeat twice) taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on the cross!”

The word incarnation’ simply refers to God **taking on human flesh**. God became a man!

**John 1:14** “The Word **became flesh** and made his dwelling among. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**Truths:**

* Since the beginning of time, history has been unfolding according to God’s sovereign plan. And it will never deviate. God is in total control of history.

**Daniel 4:25** “The Most High is **sovereign over the kingdoms of men** and he gives them to anyone he wishes.”

**Proverbs 21:1** “The king’s heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; **He turns it wherever He wishes**.”

Let’s go back approximately, 1,000 years before the birth of Christ, to a little town known as Bethlehem, formerly known as **Ephrath**.

**Prophecy:** In **2 Samuel 7**, the prophet Nathan comes to David with a message from the Lord:

“ ‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, **I will raise up your offspring to succeed you**, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and **I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever**’” (**2 Samuel 7:12-13).**

* God’s Kingdom is the only Kingdom that will last …and it will last forever and forever. In the not-too-distant future, all other kingdoms will come to an end.

Let’s fast forward 300 years, from the prophet Nathan to the prophet Micah, who lived in the southern Kingdom of Judah.

* There were two Bethlehem’s in Israel; not one.
* One was located in the north, which was part of the tribe of Zebulun.
* The other Bethlehem was located near Jerusalem, in Judah, in the region of Ephrathah.

Why is this so important? Here’s why:

**Micah 5:2** “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

**2 Samuel 7:12-13:** “I will raise up your (King David’s) offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom.”

* Both Joseph and Mary came from the line of David.
* Joseph’s hometown just happened to be Bethlehem Ephrathah.
* This is evidence that the Bible is like no other book in the world. It truly is the Word of God.

**2 Timothy 2:16** “All Scripture is God breathed.”

* God’s ways are far different from man’s ways. Instead of announcing the birth of His son to the world, God sent an angel with Good News to a few lowly, insignificant shepherds.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-28** “Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are.”

“No other God have I but Thee; born in a manger, died on a tree.”—**Martin Luther**

* What is this Good News? It is the **Gospel of Jesus Christ,** and it is found in **John 3:16**:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

To believe is more than **mental assent**.

* You must **know** that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for you sends. But this is not enough!
* You must **believe** this. You must place your trust **in Him** and in His death on the cross as payment for your sins.
* You must **repent** which meant to **turn away** from your sins and choose to **follow Jesus**.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.