



## The Facts of Jesus' Birth

Luke 1:26-37

- What is it about a story that makes it reliable? What is required from us in our minds to believe that the event or circumstance being described is true?
- We can ask a few initial questions that could point us in the right direction?
  - o Who is telling us the story? Are they reliable? How did they come to know of the information?
    - There are some people where my first reaction is belief and trust. There are others that I doubt every word that comes out of their mouths.
  - o What sort of background do they have that could qualify them to speak on the topic of what is being communicated?

- Has the story been verified from other accounts?
- Is there a pattern of behaviors that seem to lead us in the understanding that this story could be true?
- Is the story expected or unexpected? The unexpected does happen, but if it is expected that could add another layer of validity to the story.
- ***When we talk about the events surrounding the birth of Christ – all of these questions can be answered with ease.***
- Advent reminds us that we are in a period of waiting, just like the Israelites before the birth of Christ.
- For hundreds of years, they had been told and they told others that one day there would come a Messiah.
- And just like the ancient Israelites, we may be tempted from time to time to ask questions about when Jesus is coming again? Can we trust that He is coming?

**Main Point: We can trust what God says about the coming of Christ.**

- There is so much here just in Chapter 1 of Luke. Luke was very thorough in describing the details.
- There are a few attributes of the coming of Christ described here. Helps to solidify our resolve and strengthen our hope.
- If there is something the world is in need of today – it's hope.
- I am here to tell you there is hope, and hope is found in the true story of Jesus Christ.

#### **I. Fulfilled Prophecy**

- a. This was not a random story. It didn't come out of nowhere. This was the fulfillment of hundreds of years' worth of prophecies.

- b. VERSE 26 and 27 allude to just a few of those prophecies.
  - i. Isaiah 7:14 says he will be born of a virgin.
  - ii. 2 Samuel 7, Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 23 all say that He will be born of the line of David.
  - iii. Numbers 24 says that a star will mark his coming.
  - iv. Genesis 49 says that he will come from the Tribe of Judah.
  - v. Micah 5:2 says that he will be born in Bethlehem.
- c. There is nothing random about it. Luke investigated and asked the questions. He looked at the evidence. He connected the dots. And the conclusion he writes here in the Gospel of Luke is that Jesus is the Christ, and He has come to save people from their sins.
- d. There had long been an expectant demeanor from the ancient Israelites. Living day by day with the expectation of the coming Messiah. This was a day they have been expecting for so long.
- e. Even going back to the first messianic promise in Genesis 3.
- f. I think about the song we sing this time of year – Come thou long *expected* Jesus, born to set thy people free.
- g. Even today, when we hear of a mother having a baby, we say that she is expecting.
- h. There is an expectant period of waiting for every child born into the world. But could you imagine the added sense of wonder and awe that this child they were waiting on would be the Son of the living God.

## II. God's Sovereign Hand

- a. What I see when I read this story – The sovereign hand of God guiding His people.
- b. The angel came to announce this miracle of this birth. There is one phrase that I think is worthy to consider the magnitude of.
- c. The angel looks at Mary, this young woman. He says to her, “You have found favor with God.”
- d. As far as I can tell, the first time a phrase like that is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 6. God was so frustrated with man that He was sorry He even made him. But the next verse says, “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”
- e. Through Noah and his offspring, God would offer to mankind a new beginning. A fresh start at life here on Earth. Through Mary and her offspring, God would offer forgiveness and eternal life.
- f. Finding favor in the eyes of the Lord comes down to this – grace of God. In fact, you could define grace as the unmerited favor of God.
- g. God knows exactly what He is doing, from generation to generation.
- h. No matter what you’re facing – I hope you will look the Jesus. He is the answer to all the problems of this world, and He is there to offer to you eternal and abundant life.
- i. Revelation 3:20 Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come unto him.”
- j. *Trust in His sovereignty.*
- k. Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) “The sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the believer rests his head.”

- a. **Charles Spurgeon** (1834–1892) “I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes... The Lord’s hand is in everything.”

### III. The realm of the impossible

- a. In the old logging days, lumber jacks would chop down trees and use the river to transport logs from one place to the next in order to sell them.
- b. That was the best mode of transport they had, but you could imagine the difficulty that would come along the way.
- c. Often times, the logs would get jammed up in a particular place of the river. Lumberjacks would then take on the dangerous task of finding the key log. It was one log in the whole stack of piled up logs. If they could find the key log and remove it, all the other logs would follow.
- d. This one verse, I believe, is the key log to understanding the birth of Christ and the Gospel as a whole – **VERSE 37 For nothing is impossible with God.**
- e. We serve a God who is in the business of doing the impossible. If you can wrap your mind around that, everything else will fall into place.