

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH

INTRODUCTION

In the first in a series, today we will consider Jesus' entrance into the world.

I. HOW WAS HE BORN?

A. **Luke 1:26-38**

Mary herself asked the question "How?", honestly curious given her status as a virgin, so the angel explained to her the miracle she had been chosen for.

B. **Matthew 1:18-25**

Whereas Mary knew ahead of time what would transpire, Joseph remained unaware and would have taken action against her, but the angel intervened with information, explaining the miraculous means whereby Christ was conceived.

II. WHO WAS AT HIS BIRTH?

A. **Luke 2:8-20**

Along with Mary, Joseph, and the Child, shepherds were present, but there is no indication the angels who told them came along.

B. **Matthew 2:1, 9, 11**

The magi were not present on that day, but arrived later, visiting Him in a "house" rather than the manger.

III. WHEN WAS HE BORN?

A. **Luke 2:1-2; Matthew 2:1**

He was born while Augustus was reigning over the Roman Empire, Quirinius was governing Syria, and Herod was reigning over Judea, a specific point in time verified by historians. The census itself further narrows the scope.

B. **Luke 2:8; Proverbs 30:6**

Due to the cold and lack of green pasture, shepherds would not likely have had their flocks out by night in the winter. So, despite the Christmas tradition, He was not likely to have been born in December. To insist that He was is to add to God's word.

C. Galatians 4:4

More generally, but most importantly, He was born exactly when God intended. We can dispense with the wishful thoughts about "If only He'd been born in my lifetime... yada yada yada". His timing was perfect.

IV. WHERE WAS HE BORN?

A. Matthew 2:4-6; Micah 5:2; Joshua 19:10, 15

Herod asked "where?" He was born in the village that prophecy foretold. It was the Bethlehem in Judah, not the one in Zebulun.

B. Luke 2:1-7; 2nd Corinthians 8:9

He was born out of doors and cradled in a feed trough, indicating the poverty He assumed when entering the world.

V. WHY WAS HE BORN?

A. Hebrews 2:14-18

He was born to experience the human condition in order to sympathize with mankind in our struggles.

B. Galatians 4:4-5

He was born to be like us, so we can be like Him by adoption. He came to redeem us.

C. Luke 2:25-32, 36-38

The strangers who welcomed His birth at the Temple a few days afterward saw in Him salvation and redemption.