

Christmas 2022 (12.25.22) #22104

God Among Us

Luke 2:1-20

I. The incarnation of God the Son is the greatest miracle since creation itself and guarantees the next great miracle—the New Creation. 4 questions unpack the supernatural reality...

A. Why the government? 1-5 *A Roman Census? Really?*

1. To remind us that providence is one of the main ways God guides us.
2. To remind us that world events are under God's direction and that his kingdom is the one that will survive.
3. *Caesar is not Lord—Jesus is.*

B. Why the Stress? 5-7 *overcrowded, uncomfortable. Could God have arranged it better?*

1. To redeem our most difficult and humble experiences.
  - a) Good news amid human difficulty?
2. *They don't really know how they are fitting into God's plan—we know how they did, but at the time they did not. All they knew was to have this Baby.*
3. *They might feel like the victims of circumstance, but they are right where God wants them.*
4. *Our lives are particularly useful when they are not easy.*

C. Why the Shepherds? 8 *The low end of society.*

1. To show that God does not care who we are in this age. Luke 16:15
  - a) *Jesus deliberately hung out with people who wanted grace more than prestige!! No cultural franchise. Matt. 11:25-30; 1Cor.1:26ff*
  - b) *life is painfully humble, earthy, ordinary—like us.*
2. To keep us from being too sentimental. (Joyful, yes, but not sentimental)
  - a) Jesus' life was not sentimental. Isa 53
  - b) *Our relationship with the Lord is not essentially sentimental and does not rely on our conjuring up certain feelings. But it is real.*
3. To use the simple witness of basic people to speak God's Gospel:
  - a) The shepherds saw the angels; everybody else just saw the shepherds. And nobody went to Jerusalem until the Magi showed up 3 years later!
  - b) *The Angels did not go to Jerusalem and coerce faith in Christ.*

II. Why the Angels? 9-14. Because God is invading the darkness personally and permanently and all of Heaven is involved in it. Changing the destiny of our doomed world! He rips back the veil and the angelic army rejoices for the incarnation.

A. The guarantee of a peace we cannot create. 14 *On Earth Peace... Savior, Christ, Lord.*

1. He cannot mean political peace on earth today. Matt.24:6-13
2. He is talking about a supernatural peace under His reign. Isa.9:6-7
  - a) Present peace with God: knowing you are forgiven and loved.
    - (1) **Jn.16:33** in me you have peace.
    - (2) **Col.1:21**. Justified by faith, peace with God.
  - b) Future universal peace in His kingdom. Rev.21:3-4
3. Utopianism is not true or possible. We need this King.
4. *Coming to Christ puts you in this peace and in the future peace. Your eternal life is secure the minute you come to the Savior King—no matter what.*
5. *This is a better promise than you will find anywhere else.*

B. The promise of a joy not sourced in this age. 10, *The problem with the joys of this age is that they are limited to this age.*

1. Gospel (good news) of Great Joy, because of the incarnation.
2. *The true joys of life in this age are tiny drops of the joy that God has planned for the next age. Rom.8:18-28.*

**C. The gift of a life that does not depend on us. 11,14. *A Divine (Lord) Savior, King (Christ)...*Peace on earth among those with whom He is pleased. On whom his favor rests (NIV)**

**1. How can I be one with whom He is pleased?**

*a) We automatically think by doing good works in hopes of pleasing God enough to accept us—but no!*

**2. By simply trusting Jesus, the Savior, Christ, Lord. Jn.1:12-13; Matt.11:25-30.**

**3. This salvation is a gift, individually to all those who come and receive Christ as Saving Lord.**

**III. This is why we come to the Lord's Table... Because he has "done everything" and prepared a table for us in the presence of the enemy... (Ps.23:5)**