

JESUS, THE SAVIOR

Part 2 of See What God Has Done. Luke 2:1-20.
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. December 22, 2024.

LUKE 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. 2 This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 14 Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors! 15 When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

16 They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. 17 After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told. However, there is great spiritual value in reflecting on Mary’s life and her role in God’s salvation plan.

CLASH OF KINGS

Luke was a clever writer.

- He conveyed historical details while also offering profound insights into God's work in the world.
- Today's passages answers the questions: "Is Jesus real? Who is he?"
- Luke contrasts Jesus with three seemingly greater men, three kings.

The Roman Emperor

- Augustus was the first Roman Emperor, the most powerful man in world.
- Raised in wealth and power. Adopted son of Julius Caesar.
- Seized supreme power through military conflict.

The Roman Governor

- Quirinius was wealthy and powerful.
- He held high government offices, led victorious armies, had access to the Emperor.

The King of Israel

- Luke called Bethlehem the city of David, but it was a farming village.
- David was born and raised on a sheep farm there, but became a warrior and the King of the united tribes of Israel.
- He amassed wealth and power, and expanded Israel's borders through military conquest.
- He also loved God and wrote Psalms or worship songs.
- But that's not why Luke mentioned him.

The King of the World

- Jesus was descended from David through Joseph and Mary. But Jesus is a far greater king than David (or Augustus).

Isaiah 9:7 (CSB) ... He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.

- Jesus was so much more than his humble birth suggests.

SAVIOR, LORD, MESSIAH

Jesus is Savior

- God came into the world in Jesus to rescue us from sin and judgment.

1 John 4:9-10 (CSB) God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his one and only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Jesus is Lord

- Jesus is Lord in the sense that he is God with us (Matthew 1:22-23).
- Christians profess, "*Jesus is Lord*" (Romans 10:9), and "*everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*" (Joel 2:32; Romans 10:13).

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT) For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

Jesus is Messiah

- Jesus is the anointed King of the whole world whose reign will never end.

His Kingdom is characterized by: Peace (Isaiah 11:6–7; Micah 4:3), justice (Isaiah 11:3–4), unity (Isaiah 11:10), abundance (Isaiah 35:1–2), healing (Isaiah 35:5–6), righteousness (Isaiah 35:8), and joy (Isaiah 55:12). The meek will be protected and honored (Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:11). People will know and honor the Lord (Isaiah 11:9). <https://www.gotquestions.org/messianic-age.html>

JESUS, THE SAVIOR

The Concept of a Savior

Jesus is God in human form, and he was born into the world to rescue humanity from sin and its consequences. He addresses the fundamental human condition.

The Need for Salvation

All of us have sinned against God, sin leads to death and eternal separation from God, and we cannot bridge the gap back to God by our efforts.

Jesus' Role as Savior

Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life, offered himself as an atoning sacrifice that took away our sins on the cross, and rose from the dead, having conquered sin, death, and hell.

What Jesus Saves Us From

Jesus saves us from sin's power and penalty, God's righteous judgment, eternal death and destruction away from God's presence, slavery to sin, and satanic deception. Mark Dever writes, "Jesus has come particularly to save sinners! So in 1 John 1:7, John wrote that *"the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin."* And in verse 9, we read that *"if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Later on in 2:12, John says that *"your sins are forgiven for his name's sake"* (<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/relying-christ#>).

What Jesus Saves Us For

God, new life, new community, love, service, holiness, and hope.

Personal Salvation

To receive salvation, we must turn from sin and self and turn to Jesus with faith, believing that he is able and willing to cleanse us from our guilt, wash away our sin, restore us to God, and give us a fresh start.