

The First Census

Luke 2:1-14

1. the event

- 2 little people in the huge Roman empire are moved by a royal decree that went out from Caesar Augustus to go to Bethlehem for the census
- God brings together two ordinary people – Joseph and a pregnant not yet wife Mary
 - God brings together – Caesar’s census and David’s town
 - God brings together – Roman rule & Jewish history so prophecy would be fulfilled
 - *God guides kings, empires and ordinary people to work his wonderful purposes*

2. the significance – Jesus became one of us

- **Jesus became one of us –**
 - “he was numbered with the transgressors.”
 - Truly human (not just a cosmic visitor)

Jesus gets us – he understands our situation:

- Even as child he knew what it was to be poor, persecuted and a refugee
- As an adult, Jesus knew what it was to have friends and lose friends
- He knew what it was to be popular one minute and rejected the next.
- He knew what it was to be understood and misunderstood by family and friends.
- He knew hunger, thirst, temptations, false accusations, and finally unjust death.

- **Jesus became one of us – to save us**

“Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.” (v12)

Jesus gets us, and he gets us to God – he understands our situation and he can change it.

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3. Our response

Luke 2:1-14^{New International Version (NIV)}

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to his own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Saviour as been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."