



Christmas

A Matter of Decree

Luke 2:1-14

Philip Giorgio

Sojourners Sunday School Class





Quote ...

“All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ.”

David Jeremiah



**Turning
Point**TM
with Dr. David Jeremiah



David Jeremiah

Born	February 13, 1941 (age 72) Toledo, Ohio, United States
Residence	El Cajon, California
Nationality	American
Education	Dallas Theological Seminary Additional studies at Grace University Doctor of Divinity (honorary) Cedarville University
Occupation	Pastor Author
Employer	Shadow Mountain Community Church
Religion	Evangelical Christian-Baptist
Spouse(s)	Donna Jeremiah
Children	4

www.davidjeremiah.org

Jeremiah was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1941 to Ethel Rayburn Jeremiah and James T. Jeremiah, a Baptist pastor and former president of Cedarville University.^[1]

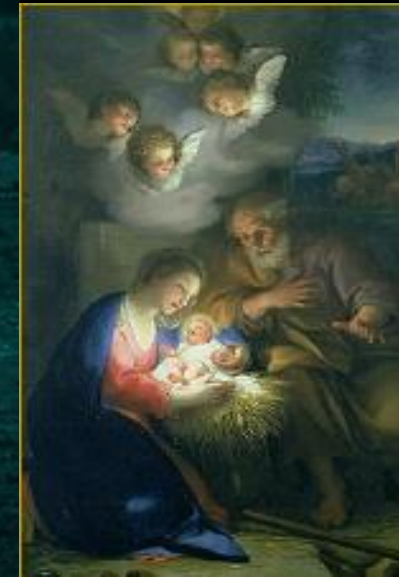
Jeremiah earned a bachelor's degree from Cedarville University (1963) and a master's degree from Dallas Theological Seminary (1967). Cedarville presented him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1981.^[2]

Jeremiah succeeded Tim LaHaye as Shadow Mountain's senior pastor in 1981. Jeremiah's leadership of the church has led it to become affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jeremiah broadcasts a daily evangelical radio program on stations worldwide through his Turning Point Ministries, which he founded in 1982. The broadcast can also be heard online. He is the author of numerous books on Christian theology and morality.

In 1994 and again in 1998, Jeremiah was diagnosed with lymphoma. In 1999, a nodule was surgically removed from his neck and he underwent stem cell transplant therapy.

On January 31, 2010, his Turning Point for God organization withdrew from the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



“Glory to God
in the highest,
and on earth
peace, good
will toward
men” *Luke 2:14*



A Matter of Decree

Text – New King James Version

Luke 2:1-14



2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

--- Luke 2:1-3 ... NKJV

Christ Born of Mary

Luke 2:1-7 - NKJV



⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

--- Luke 2:4-5 ... NKJV

Christ Born of Mary

Luke 2:1-7 - NKJV



⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

--- Luke 2:6-7 ... NKJV

Glory in the Highest

Luke 2:8-20 - *NKJV*



⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

--- Luke 2:8-9 ... *NKJV*

Glory in the Highest

Luke 2:8-20 - NKJV



10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

--- Luke 2:10-12 ... NKJV

Glory in the Highest

Luke 2:8-20 - *NKJV*



13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

--- Luke 2:13-14 ... *NKJV*



Lesson Outline

Christmas Lesson - Outline



■ Lesson: **A Matter of Decree**

[Luke 2:1-14]

- The Decree of Augustus ... [Luke 2:1-7]
- The Decree of the Angel ... [Luke 2:8-14]



Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.



A Matter of Decree

The Decree of Augustus

Luke 2:1-7

Christmas Lesson - Outline



■ Lesson: **A Matter of Decree**

[Luke 2:1-14]

- The Decree of Augustus ... [Luke 2:1-7]
- The Decree of the Angel ... [Luke 2:8-14]



Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.



Luke 2:1-2 - Observations

2 And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

■ A Decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all should be registered

• “in those days”

✓ Which days?

- Refers back to the previous chapter
- Gabriel's announcements
 - » John the Baptist's birth ... to Elizabeth
 - » Jesus' birth ... to Mary
- Events of John the Baptist ... Jesus' cousin

• Decree

- ✓ **FROM:** Caesar Augustus ... first emperor of Rome
- ✓ **TO:** All the world ... Roman Empire
- ✓ **PURPOSE:** Registration for Taxation ... **burden**

Profile - Caesar Augustus ... Holman Study Bible & Wikipedia



■ Caesar Augustus

- **Life span**
 - ✓ September 23, 63 BC - August 19, 14 AD
- “*Augustus*” meaning “*Exalted*”
 - ✓ Title approved by the Roman Senate in 27 BC
 - ✓ Birth name: Gaius Octavius (*Octavian*)
- **First Emperor of Rome**
 - ✓ Reigned from January 16, 27 BC to August 19, 14 AD
 - ✓ Maternal Nephew of Julius Caesar
 - ✓ Defeated Mark Anthony in 31 BC
 - At the Battle of Actium
 - Mark Anthony commits suicide after defeat
- **Established the peace era of Rome ... *Pax Romana***
 - ✓ Largely free from conflict for more than two centuries
- **Successor: Tiberius** (*stepson of 3rd wife*)



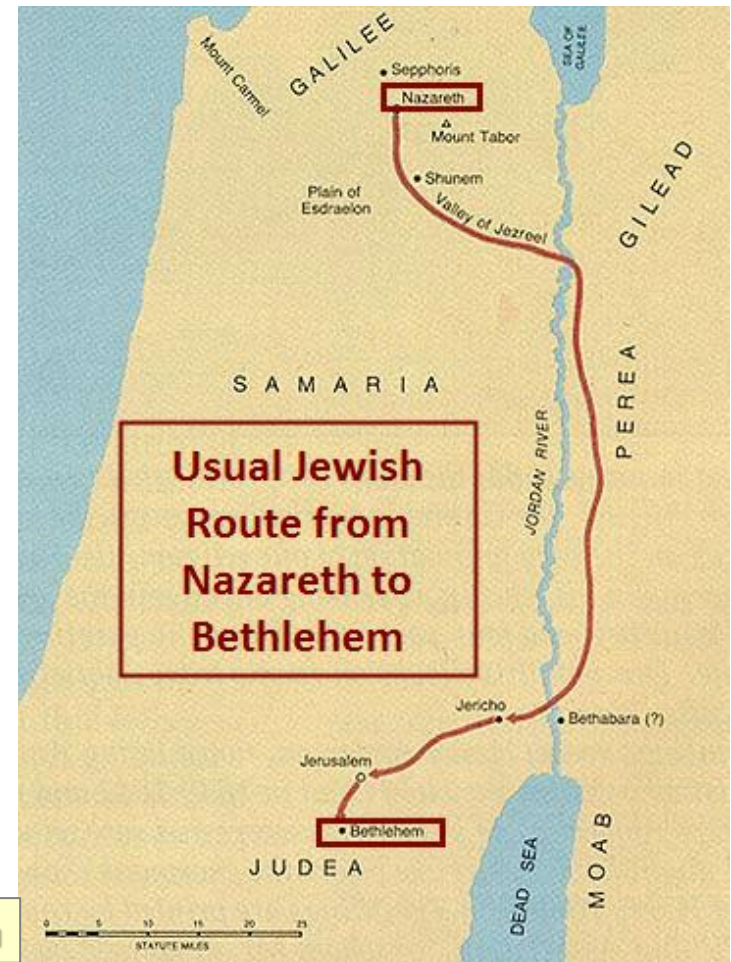
Luke 2:3-4 - Observations



³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

■ All went to be registered in their own city

- Not to where Joseph & Mary currently lived
 - ✓ Nazareth of Galilee
- But to his ancestral home
 - ✓ Bethlehem in Judea ... the City of David
 - ✓ Joseph was of the lineage of David
 - ✓ Mary was also of the lineage of David
- Trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem
 - ✓ Would have taken 3 days
 - ✓ Covering 90 miles
- Bethlehem means “house of bread”
 - ✓ Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:25)



Luke 2:5-6 - Observations



⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

■ Joseph travels with Mary to be Registered

• Betrothed wife, who was pregnant

✓ Betrothed wife

- Engaged to Joseph
- Marriage was not consummated
 - » Virgin Birth ... Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. -- Isaiah 7:14 ... NKJV

• Mary is headed for Bethlehem

✓ Mary up to this point was living in the wrong place for Messiah's birth

- IF NOT (for the decree of Augustus) AND (completion of Mary's term)
- THEN Mary would have given birth in Nazareth or any city along the way
 - » Jesus would not have fulfilled the prophecy of Messiah's birth place
 - » Micah 5:2

GOD IS SOVEREIGN!
GOD IS SOVEREIGN!

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." -- Micah 5:2 ... NKJV

Luke 2:7 - Observations



⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

■ Mary delivers her firstborn son - Jesus

- Implies that Mary had other sons ... Matthew 13:55
- Wrapped Him in swaddling cloths

✓ What are “*swaddling cloths*”?

- Long cloth strips
- Used to keep infant limbs straight
- So they would grow properly

- Not stated but Mary probably had midwives to assist in the birth
 - ✓ Especially since this was her first birth experience
 - ✓ Jewish law permitted midwives to travel long distances
 - ✓ Even on the Sabbath to assist in delivery
- No room for them in the inn
 - ✓ “inn” means “home” or “guest room”

⁵⁵ Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas?
-- Matthew 13:55... NKJV

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

Principle - Application Table ... Luke 2:1-7



Luke Chapter 02		
Verses	Principle	Application
The Decree of Augustus... Luke 2:5-7		
1-7	God can and does use all of His creation, including decrees from a pagan Roman Emperor, to accomplish His purposes.	I resolve to trust God that He will accomplish what He wills in my life. ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete <i>it</i> until the day of Jesus Christ; --- Philippians 1:6 ... NKJV



A Matter of Decree

The Decree of the Angel

Luke 2:8-14

Christmas Lesson - Outline



■ Lesson: **A Matter of Decree**

[Luke 2:1-14]

- The Decree of Augustus ... [Luke 2:1-7]
- The Decree of the Angel ... [Luke 2:8-14]



Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.

Luke 2:8 - Observations



⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- In the same country shepherds were living out in the fields
 - The sheep used for temple sacrifices in Jerusalem
 - ✓ Were kept in fields outside Bethlehem
 - Shepherds were outcasts in Israel ... **Why?**
 - ✓ Their work made them ceremonially unclean
 - ✓ Their work kept them away from the Temple for weeks at a time
 - They could not be made ritually clean
 - Flock was most vulnerable at night
 - ✓ Thieves
 - ✓ Predators
 - Types
 - ✓ Jesus is the Great Shepherd ... John 10
 - ✓ Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world ... John 1:29



Luke 2:9-10 - Observations

⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

■ An angel of the Lord stands before the Shepherds

• Who is this angel?

- ✓ Most scholars believe this angel was the archangel Gabriel
- ✓ Announces births of John the Baptist and Jesus
- ✓ Gives Daniel the interpretation of the dreams
 - Chapter 8 - Ram and the Goat
 - Chapter 9 - Seventy Weeks

Gabriel

From the Hebrew name גַּבְרִיאֵל (Gavri'el) meaning "**strong man of God**".

Gabriel was one of the **seven** archangels in **Hebrew** tradition. He appears in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, where he serves as the announcer of the births of John to Zechariah and Jesus to Mary.

According to Islamic tradition he was the angel who dictated the Qur'an to Muhammad.

This name has been used occasionally in England since the **12th century**. It was not common in the English-speaking world until the end of the **20th century**.

Luke 2:9-10 - Observations



⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

■ Glory of the Lord shown around them

- The Lord is the source of the Glory (light) that shines - *Not the Angel*

• Why are the shepherds afraid?

- ✓ Sudden appearance of the angel
- ✓ Sudden bright light in the dark night
- The angel instructs them to not be afraid
- The angel announces the decree

• Decree

- ✓ FROM: The angel ... presumed to be Gabriel
- ✓ TO: All people ... all mankind through the ages
- ✓ PURPOSE: Bring good tidings (*good news*) of great joy... **peace**

Luke 2:11-12 - Observations



11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ** the Lord. **12** And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

■ Savior

- Greek... *soter*
- Means... "*deliverer*", "*redeemer*"
- Soteriology

■ Christ / Messiah

- Greek... *christos* ... Hebrew... *meshiach*
- Means... "*the anointed one*"

■ Lord

- Greek... *kurios* ... Hebrew... *Yahweh*
- Used of secular rulers
- Standard translation of the primary name for God

Soteriology

so·te·ri·ol·o·gy




noun

\sō-,tir-ē-'ă-lə-jē\

Definition of SOTERIOLOGY

: theology dealing with salvation especially as effected by Jesus Christ

— so·te·ri·o·log·i·cal  adjective

Origin of SOTERIOLOGY

Greek *sōtēriōn* salvation (from *sōtēr* savior, preserver) + English *-logy* — more at CREOSOTE

First Known Use: circa 1774

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/soteriology>

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Luke 2:11-12 - Observations

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

■ The reason for the decree of "good tiding of great joy to all people"

- **WHEN:** This day (the Word became flesh) ... John 1:14
- **WHERE:** In the city of David (Bethlehem) ... Micah 5:2
- **WHAT:** A Savior is born
- **WHO:** Christ the Lord (Jesus)

■ The sign of the decree

- You will find a Babe
- Wrapped in swaddling cloths
- Lying in a manger

✓ *"an open box in which food for animals is placed"*

¹³ By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the **Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.** ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that **Jesus is the Son of God**, God abides in him, and he in God.

--- **1 John 4:13-15 ... NKJV**

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/manger?show=0&t=1387581350>



Luke 2:13-14 - Observations

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

▪ Suddenly heavenly host appears praising God saying

- The hymn sung by the multitude of angels
 - ✓ Known today as the "*Gloria in Excelsis Deo*" ... Glory to God in the Highest
 - ✓ From the Latin Vulgate

• What Peace are we talking about?

- ✓ Not the *Pax Romana* - under Caesar Augustus
- ✓ But *Peace with God* through Jesus Christ His son

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
--- **Romans 5:1 ... NKJV**

17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18** Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

--- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21... NKJV**

Luke 2:13-14 - Observations



13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

▪ Suddenly heavenly host appears praising God saying

- Glory to God in the highest
- On Earth peace, good will toward men
 - ✓ May be translated - "peace toward men of goodwill"

• Where is the peace?

✓ On earth

✓ Why on earth?

- Because that is where Jesus is

• On Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

✓ Luke 19:38 ... Crowd sings Psalm 118:26

✓ Where is the peace?

- In Heaven

- Why in Heaven?

» Because that is where Jesus is headed (He is about to complete His mission)

37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen,

38 saying: 'Blessed *is* the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

--- Luke 19:37-38 ... NKJV

Principle - Application Table ... Luke 2:8-14



Luke Chapter 02		
Verses	Principle	Application
The Decree of the Angel... Luke 2:8-14		
8-14	Peace with God is only found in relationship with Jesus Christ His son.	<p>I resolve to praise God that I have peace with Him, for I am justified by faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ my Lord, and His son.</p> <p>5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>--- Romans 5:1 ... NKJV</p>

