

Luke #3: The Birth of Jesus (1:26-2:20)

I. Interesting Bible Study Points

1:26-35 – The “Son of the Most High” will be given “the throne of his father David” (*further explained in 1:34-35 re: Mary’s virginity*)

Psalms 2:6-7 (NASB) ⁶“But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain.”
⁷“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Isaiah 7:14 (NASB) ¹⁴“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name **Immanuel**.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB) ⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

1:36-38 – Astonished, by faith Mary humbly submits (she had to have known about Elizabeth)

1:46-56 – Mary praises God (for His mercy, power, justice, love and faithfulness)

Luke 1:46-56 (NASB) ⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. ⁵⁰ and His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. ⁵¹ He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, and has exalted those who were humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent away the rich empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has given help to Israel His servant, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary stayed with her about three months, and *then* returned to her home.

2:1-7 – *Bethlehem previously announced in Micah 5:2 (God foreknows, foretells, fulfills)*

Luke 2:1-7 (NASB) ¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ²This was the first census taken while **Quirinius** was governor of Syria. ³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, **to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,** ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Micah 5:2 (NASB) ²“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *too* little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

II. Peace on Earth

Luke 2:13-14 (ESV) ¹³And 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 among those** with whom He is pleased.”

KJV: “on earth peace, good will toward men”

Jubilee: “on earth peace, good will in man”

Young: “upon earth peace, among men – good will”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB) ⁶...His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace**. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of *His* government **or of peace**,

“The coming of this child is the greatest revelation of the glory of God, even among the heights of heaven, and the coming of this child will bring peace to God’s people....

Glory ever-ascending from man to God. Peace ever-descending from God to man. God’s glory sung out among men for the sake of his name. God’s peace lived out among men for the sake of his name.” (Piper)

A. Peace With God

Four times in the New Testament he is called **“the God of peace”** (Romans 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20).

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NKJV) ²³Now **may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely**; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it*.

Ephesians 2:14 (ESV) ¹⁴For **he himself is our peace**, who has made us both one and **has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility**

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV) ¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into **this grace in which we stand**, and we ^frejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:8-10 (ESV) ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled to God** by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

B. Peace Within Our Own Soul

Our hearts and our minds are under assault. Guilt and anxiety tend to paralyze us or make us hopeless. Guilt, worries, threats, confusions, uncertainties — they all threaten our peace. Paul says that God wants to “guard” our hearts and minds. He guards them with his peace. He guards them in a way that goes beyond what human understanding can fathom.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-9 (NKJV) ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸Be sober, be

vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

1 John 1:9 (ESV) ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 103:10-14 (ESV) ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

C. Peace With Others

This is the one we have least control over.

Romans 12:18 (ESV): “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

The following is edited from an article by John Piper:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/a-savior-is-born-glory-to-god-peace-to-man>

For many of you when you get together with family members for Christmas, there will be some awkward and painful relationships. Some of the pain is old. Some of it is new. In some relationships you know what you have to do, no matter how hard it is. And in some of them you are baffled and don't know what the path of peace calls for.

In both cases the key is to trust the promises of God with deep awareness of how he forgave you through Christ.

The text that carries this thought most powerfully is **Ephesians 4:31–32 (ESV):**

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Continually cultivate a sense of amazement that in spite of all your sins God has forgiven you through Christ. Be amazed that God has granted you peace with Him. It's this sense of gratitude and amazement, that I, a sinner, can have peace with God, that makes the heart tender, kind and forgiving. Extend this spirit to others, seventy times seven.

It may be thrown back in your face. It certainly was thrown back in Jesus' face on the cross. That can make you bitter if you aren't careful. Don't let it. Keep being more amazed that your wrongs are forgiven, than that you are wronged. Be amazed that your own guilt is taken away, that you have peace with God.

Keep trusting God. He knows what he is doing. Regardless of your success or your effectiveness in making peace in your relationships, keep the glory of God foremost in your heart.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”