

UNUSUAL EVENTS AT THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:-1-24

Introduction: The Christmas story is indeed a wonderful story of the birth of Jesus. Through the ages God had given bits and pieces about a coming Messiah. God had spoken of a virgin, of a small town, even of a name that the coming one would have. The first Christmas didn't "just happen." God told the very first couple on earth about it and then "in the fullness of time" God brought it to pass. As usual when God steps into human history unusual things happen and that first Christmas was no exception.

1. The Miraculous Taxation

- God controlled the events around that first Christmas.
- The holy family needed to be Bethlehem for the birth of their holy child.
- Therefore it was declared that a census was to be taken and everyone had to return to their birthplace.

2. The Shocking Place of Birth

- It was not normal, comfortable surroundings that the holy child was born.
- It was in a smelly stable that the birth took place.
- In poverty, in obscurity, in humility, in an evil world the holy child was born.

3. The Unbelievable Appearance of A Real Angel to Some Shepherds

- In all their splendor and glory God sent an angel to a group of common shepherds.
- His message was one of reassurance and good news that the long awaited Messiah had come.

4. The Spectacular Appearance of the Heavenly Host

- Joining the angel who brought the good news message was an army of angels (10 x 10 thousand).
- The shepherds were enabled by God to see the spiritual host of God and to hear their excited voices.

5. The Excited Shepherds Left to See for Themselves What They Had Been Told

- They rushed into Bethlehem to find the Messiah.
- After seeing for themselves the baby Messiah, they hurried off to tell everybody what they had seen and heard.
- Their message caused a stir among the people they told.

6. The Awe-Stricken, Pondering Little Mother

- Mary remained humble throughout all the excitement.
- She was confused and so tired.
- She was not accustomed to receiving such attention.

7. The Common, Non-Religious Shepherds Worshipping God

- Because of their work as shepherds, they seldom were able to frequent the Temple or attend religious services.
- They had been privileged to see and hear heavenly things that nobody else had. God had selected them over everyone else.

8. The Unusual Naming of the Child: Named By God, Himself

- Before Mary even conceived the holy child, God had already named her coming child.
- God gave the name that meant a "savior," one who would save His people.

9. The Observance of the Legal Ceremonies

- In observance of the law, the newborn son was circumcised.
- The mother went through the purification rite after giving birth as required by law.
- The parents dedicated this first born son to the Lord as God required.

10. The Deliberate Choice of God to Have a Poor Family Bear His Son.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Christmas Story happened. Sadly to many today, it is just a "story."
2. To see the Christmas Story through spiritual eyes is to see God's plan and purpose being unfolded.
3. The tax census law, Bethlehem, the stable, the shepherds, the priest and the old widow, all in God's plan long before Abraham.
4. To know what God is doing, to recognize His activities, one must be able to see things as God sees them.
5. After all, **isn't that what God's Son came to do in the first place? - To Show Us the Father?**
6. What is the Christmas Story to you? Have you seen God in action yet?