

**The New Testament Church**  
Christmas Sunday – December 20, 2020  
Exhortation by Pastor Paul Jehle

*“...it seemed good to me also, have had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.” – Luke 1:3-4*

- Luke wrote volume 2, the book of *Acts*, also addressed to Theophilus, saying that the record of Christ’s life was filled with “*many infallible proofs...*” – Acts 1:3
- Theophilus was probably a Gentile, outside the Jewish tradition, and since he was addressed by Luke as “most excellent”, may have been a Roman official... how do you convince people outside the faith that Christmas is not just about tinsel, some lights and a merry and happy holiday, but about Christ?
- Luke begins with the miraculous birth of Christ, but the story goes back further...
- Christmas is filled with many, many miracles.
- That is why it is so encouraging, and filled with so much hope
- Consider that Genesis 3:15 God foretold that the Messiah would be born of a woman
- Isaiah 7:14 said He would be born of a virgin
- Psalm 2 declared He was the Son of God
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- Genesis 22:18 declared He was the seed of Abraham
- Genesis 21:12 the son of Isaac
- Numbers 24:17 the son of Jacob
- Genesis 49:10 from the Tribe of Judah
- Isaiah 11:1 that He would be from the Line of Jesse
- Jeremiah 23:5 that He would be from the House of David
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- Micah 5:2 that He would be born in Bethlehem
- Psalm 72:10 that He would be given gifts
- Jeremiah 31:15 that children would be killed in anger over his birth
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- There are 61 major prophecies fulfilled in Jesus – and the probability that even eight could be fulfilled in one individual 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power – that’s filling the State of Texas two feet deep in silver coins!
- 48 prophecies fulfilled is 1 in 10 to the 157<sup>th</sup> power. This number is so large that if you counted 250 per minute, day and night, it would 19 million years to complete!

- So was the greatest miracle at the first Christmas?
  - o It was the confirmation that God works distinctly
  - o He does the opposite of what the world does
- Mary's response to the angel says it all:
- Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul <sup>[a]</sup>magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

<sup>48</sup> For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant;  
For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> For He who is mighty has done great things for me,  
And holy *is* His name.

- God came to Mary, not a wealthy woman, not one of fame, but one humble
- Generations would call her blessed, but in fact, it is the humble that are blessed

<sup>50</sup> And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him  
From generation to generation.

- Fear the Lord today, my friends, for then His mercy triumphs over judgment

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm;  
He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones,  
And exalted *the* lowly.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled *the* hungry with good things,  
And *the* rich He has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped His servant Israel,  
In remembrance of *His* mercy,

<sup>55</sup> As He spoke to our fathers,  
To Abraham and to his seed forever."