

New Testament Church – Christmas Sunday
Lessons from the First Christmas (also see PowerPoint slides)
Pastor Paul Jehle; - December 21, 2025

I Introduction – the Nativity and the focus of eternity - Incarnation

- A. Isaiah 7 and 9 – historical and spiritual context – a lesson for today
 - 1. About 733 BC, 10 years before Judah’s captivity to Assyria
 - 2. Though disobedient to God, a promise of restoration is given – through a child!
- B. The **Incarnation** – **Lesson One** – baby Jesus - incarnation of Christ / new birth in us
 - 1. *The Lord Himself shall give you a sign... a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son*
 - 2. *Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given...* - Jesus born of a virgin
 - 3. The Zodiac – Virgo - gives testimony to this truth from ancient times!
- C. St. Francis of Assisi and the first Nativity Scene – *focus on Christ at Christmas*
 - 1. Gifts at Christmas had become the focus, people didn’t honor Christ – 1200’s
 - a. Nicholas’ name meant “hero of the people” and he gave generously to the poor
 - b. On the anniversary of his death (Dec. 6, 343 – 63 yrs) – “secret gift giving”
 - 2. To focus people’s attention to Christ, he created a live nativity scene, Greccio, Italy
- D. Washington Irving’s “History of New York” and today’s St. Nicholas traditions

II Lessons from the First Christmas – Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7

- A. **Bethlehem** and “no place in the guest room” – had to go in the “living room” w/ animals
 - 1. *And the government shall be upon His shoulder*
 - 2. **Lesson Two:** *the government of His Kingdom begins in our hearts (living room)!*
- B. The **Angels** as messengers of heaven declare God’s glory in the fields of Bethlehem
 - 1. *And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor...*
 - 2. **Lesson Three:** Angelic signs are heavenly confirmations encouraging belief on Earth
- C. **Lesson Four:** *God chose Jesus’ parents to fulfill prophecy – fully God and Man*
 - 1. **Mary** – Luke’s line of ascent to God; the legal choice of Nathan after David, Christ the 77th name in a list; Jesus is the natural son of Mary – 6 (man); 7 (God)
 - a. *Mighty God* – she understood her lowly state but magnified God and His ways...
 - b. As a young virgin, pondered the things heard from Gabriel in her heart (Luke 1-2)
 - 2. **Joseph** – Matthew’s line of descent from Abraham; God chose Solomon after David, 42 generations (6X7), Christ is the 66th name, Jesus is the legal son of Joseph
 - a. *Everlasting Father* – He understood the fatherhood of God, and fathered Jesus
 - b. Joseph acted on what he heard from Gabriel at great risk to his own reputation
- D. **Shepherds** – despised, Rabbi’s banned shepherding, but needed swaddling cloths
 - 1. *Prince of Peace* – the promise was to “those with whom He is pleased” – humility
 - 2. **Lesson Five:** God’s Kingdom from the home to those who truly worship Him – *shepherds were also the first evangelists*
- E. **The Star and Wise Men** – **Lesson Six** – *God times all events to advance His Kingdom*
 - 1. *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice*
 - 2. The “school of the Magi” – legacies from the time of Daniel, were providentially fulfilled in a company of 24 “wise men” from Babylon visiting Jesus at 1 to 2 yrs old
- F. **A Look Ahead** – the birth of Christ inspired liberty and our own Declaration! (see quote)