

September 28, 2025



Week 4 – THE FIRST CHRISTMAS (Luke 2:1-10, pp. 27-33)

Over the last several weeks we’ve seen the hope and promise of Jesus’ coming. He was there in the beginning – the Word that created all things. His coming in the flesh was foretold to Adam and Eve, and to Abraham, Moses, and David. And finally, after thousands of years of waiting, the birth of our Savior was announced to Mary, his mother, and to Joseph, his adoptive father. After so much anticipation, we finally see him: the baby in the manger who is the Word made flesh, come to rescue us from sin, by His death on the cross.

The birth narrative in Luke 2 is probably familiar. **What details ground this story in a historical time and place?** _____

Why are those details significant? _____

How does the census of Caesar Augustus result in the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy? (see Micah 5:2) _____

Why is Bethlehem significant? _____

What does “Bethlehem” mean? _____

Read John 6:35. Note that the bread of life was placed in a feeding trough in the house of bread!

We have already discussed the “humility” of the incarnation. **How is that theme enhanced by the circumstances of Jesus’ birth?** _____

Why did the angels appear and announce the Messiah’s birth to shepherds? _____

How did the message of God’s glory contrast with the picture of the baby in the manger? _____

Revelation 4 & 5 describe the return of Jesus to the throneroom of heaven. **How is the glory of God in heaven “altered and increased” by the reappearance of the Son of God?** _____

Throughout the centuries, the church has wrestled with how to honor Mary without worshipping her. **What honor is due to Mary?** _____

Explain why we can use the terms “God-bearer” and “Mother of God” to describe Mary without denying her human sinfulness. _____

Why is it important to confess that Mary is both a poor miserable sinner and also a “Most High Favored Lady?” _____

“We can become distracted by everything our culture has made Christmas and forget the true circumstances that we should be celebrating and honoring.” (CFM, p.33)

How can we stand firm in our honor and devotion toward Christ, both during Christmas and throughout the year? _____

For Next Time:

Week 5 – THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN (Matthew 2:1-18, pp. 35-41)