

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Luke 2; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 12-18-2022

Luke 2 highlights that Christmas is all about the birth of Jesus and the good news of a Savior for all who, through a perfect sacrifice, brings great joy to all those with whom God is pleased, to the glory of God.

1. Jesus was born.

This is Good News! (Luke 2:10; Proverbs 15:30; Proverbs 25:25; Isaiah 9:2-3, 6)

- An angel appears to Zacharias.
- Elizabeth gets pregnant at an old age.
- An angel appears to Mary.
- Mary gets pregnant at a young age.
- Mary goes to see Elizabeth who is in her 6th month of pregnancy.
- Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist.
- Mary stays 3 months and then returns home.
- Mary is found to be 3 months pregnant.
- Joseph decides to divorce her.
- An angel appears to Joseph.
- Joseph takes Mary to be his wife.
- They travel to Bethlehem.
- Mary gives birth to Jesus.
- They take Jesus to the temple.

Go Tell It On the Mountain – Isaiah 52:7

2. Jesus was born. When?

At just the right time! Probably about 6-4 BC. It may have been shortly before Herod died on April 4, 4 BC. For some, December 25, 5 BC is not out of the question. It's not unreasonable or without some historical support. Luke includes time references and historical figures not directly related to the story because the birth of Jesus was a real historical event. (Luke 2:1-2)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing – Galatians 4:4-5

3. Jesus was born. Where?

Outside the big city and more prominent places. Bethlehem was about 5 miles south of Jerusalem and, during Herod's day, there were probably about 100 people in this small village. The name means 'House of Bread'. (Luke 2:4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Micah 5:2

4. Jesus was born. How?

Quietly and humbly. Jesus was born outside normal comforts and provision for birthing mothers, but the exact circumstances are unclear. He was born outside an inn or a house and in some kind of area for animals, possibly a stable under or attached to a house/inn or in a cave behind it. A manger was a feeding trough. His parents dedicated Him at the temple with an offering made by those who were poor. He was raised in a town that was despised: an obscure town from which no one expected anything good to come. (Luke 2:4-5, 6-7, 24, 39)

Silent Night – Zephaniah 3:17

5. Jesus was born. Why?

The birth of Jesus had a purpose.

- Jesus was born to be a Savior. (Luke 2:4-5, 11, 21, 30-32)
- Jesus was born to live and to die (to be a Savior through sacrifice). (Luke 2:8, 22-24, 34-35, 41, 49)
- Jesus was born to bring joy, great joy. (Luke 2:10, 13, 20, 28, 38)
- Jesus was born to glorify God. (Luke 2:13-14, 1-3, 6, 20, 28-29, 38)

Joy to the World – Psalm 43:4

6. Jesus was born. For whom?

The birth of Jesus is important to you and important to all.

- Jesus was born for those who were expecting Him and for those who weren't. (Luke 2:11, 25, 38)
- Jesus was born for the Jew and the Gentile. (Luke 2:30-32)
- Jesus was born for all people. (Luke 2:1, 10)
- Jesus was born especially for those who are pleased with Him. (Luke 2:13-14, 25, 37-38; 1 Timothy 4:10)

God is pleased with those who are pleased with the One with Whom God is pleased (by grace through faith)! – Hebrews 11:6; Luke 3:22-22; John 5:20-23

O Come All Ye Faithful, O Come All You Unfaithful – Mark 2:17

Mary Had a Little Lamb, Mary Had a Spotless Lamb – Luke 2:7; John 1:29