

THE _____ ASSOCIATED WITH CHRIST'S BIRTH
Luke 2/Matthew 1

Introduction: When Christ was born, God became flesh and dwelt among us. The greatest of Royalty to ever be born on the earth came that day, yet there were so many things that happened before, during and after His birth that would not be tolerated with the birth of "Royalty" today!

1. The _____ had created a very difficult situation for the expectant mother of Christ-**bad timing (Vs 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.)**
2. The _____ conditions for such an expectant mother was horrible-**bad transportation (A ___ day journey to cover to the rough _____ miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem)**
3. The _____ for such a birth was all wrong-an insignificant community, and a less than humane birthing chamber-the medical conditions for delivering a new baby were awful-**bad location**
4. There was no room in the inn-**bad _____**
5. There were no _____ people notified of the birth-**bad communication Vs 8-14**
"If we had orchestrated this, if we had written the script, if we were the ones doing this pageant, would we have introduced the Lord Jesus Christ for the very first time to a group of shepherds? We've seen so many Christmas programs that most of us are conditioned to think, "Who else?" But in that day it would have been the last thought in your mind, because shepherds were considered ceremonially unclean. They were not allowed to worship in the temple. They were not allowed to go to court and bear witness, because they were the least of all. So God, who had chosen Bethlehem, the least of all the cities, also chose shepherds, who were the least of all men." (David Jeremiah)
6. There was an _____ sacrifice offered in celebration of this royal birth-**cheap religious practice Cf. Vs 24 (Cf. Leviticus 12:1-8)**
7. There were _____ people who took note of His birth-**bad publicity Vs 25-38**
8. There was a great _____ that followed, caused by His birth-**bad aftershocks Matthew 2:1-18**

Yet in spite of how things appear to be "humanly speaking", God's _____ plan for His perfect Son's birth happened just as it was supposed to, and God got all the _____ for it because:

1. The government did _____ as it was supposed to in issuing the decree.
(Proverbs 21:1 (HCSB) A king's heart is like streams of water in the LORD's hand: He directs it wherever He chooses.)
2. The means of transportation for the expectant Mary depicted the _____ with which this magnificent event would unfold **(Cf. Luke 1:39-48- "low estate"-humility)**
3. The _____ chosen was exactly the one God had chosen for His Son to be born in **(Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.)**
4. The fact of there being no available lodging in the comfort of a room depicted how intricately God would weave the events so that the birth of the promised Messiah would only be revealed to those whose _____ was ready to receive such wonderful news, while the rest of the world, _____ with the "affairs of life" would never recognize what was happening.
5. The fact that the lower class of society was the one's notified by the Messengers from Heaven about the birth of the Savior was in keeping with the type people Jesus would associate with in His earthly ministry-tax collectors, _____, women with a not so clean reputation, stinky fishermen, the _____, the lame, the _____.

6. The fact that the sacrifice of the poorest was offered in the Temple to celebrate his birth is representative of the fact that today He is always _____ with whatever we have to offer Him, no matter how insignificant it may seem to the world.
7. That _____ people took note of his birth while the rest of the world let it slip by unnoticed depicted what has been going on and is still going on today ever since His birth.
8. That a great tragedy occurred in association with His birth is picturesque of what is happening even to this day-Christ is hated by those in _____ who could make a difference in the direction the world goes concerning belief in the Messiah, and the multitudes _____ Him and are _____ by satan in this life and go out into eternity lost and without hope.

Conclusion: The Birth of Christ was the plan of God in eternity past. The date, place, and events surrounding its fulfillment were all a part of God's _____ plan of redemption. There is nothing negative about the Birth of Christ, even though from all outward appearances, it was not well executed-by man's _____. As God works in our life, it may not always seem to be perfectly _____ or executed, but none the less, if God has ordered it, it is perfect in all its parts! In that we can take hope and _____ in our Savior!