

SERMON

DATE: Saturday/Sunday, December 15-16, 2018

SERIES TITLE: THE TRUTHS OF CHRISTMAS

SERMON TITLE: She Gave Birth to Her First Born Son

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2: 1-7

[1] In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

[2] (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

[3] And everyone went to their own town to register.

[4] So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

[5] He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

[6] While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

[7] and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

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1. Jesus is the King

- Caesar Augustus 27 BC – AD 14

2. Jesus Birth Filled Prophecy Full of Meaning

- **Isaiah 9:6-7:** *For to us a child is born to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*
- **Micah 5:2:** *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.*
 - ~ **Born in Bethlehem**
 - ~ **An Eternal One**
 - ~ **Born of Woman**
 - ~ **Will bring peace, prosperity, and security**

3. Jesus Death and Resurrection Made His Birth Significant

Lagniappe

Last week I read of an organization dedicated to taking the gospel to the nations. Traveling to hard to reach places where people have never heard the gospel, they accomplished the following last year:

Shared the gospel with 1,623,410 people

Saw 87,287 new believers come to Christ

Trained 12,883 new pastors

I immediately said, "I want to be a part of a group like that!"

Then, I realized, I already am.

That group is IMB, the International Mission Board. IMB is the largest Christian mission sending agency. Through people like you and me it takes the gospel to as many places in the world as possible.

At Christmas, I particularly get to be a part of this group. Every year, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is given by more than 40,000 churches to send missionaries who will plant churches, train local pastors, teach, preach, and witness of the gospel.

Martha and I have never missed giving to this offering. It's as much a part of Christmas as buying gifts for our grandchildren.

What a joy it is to give and what a joy to know that other people's grandchildren are hearing the gospel because we gave.

You can give as well. You have an envelope for this in the envelopes you receive in the mail.

We can make a difference in the world. Please join with Martha and me and so many others at First Baptist Church who give each year for the work of the gospel.