

Mary and Joseph Travel

Lesson 49

Luke 1:26-38

Memory Verse

I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said. Luke 1:38

Luke 2:1-5

Scripture

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

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

Introduction

History teaches that the Jews or Israelites were under Roman rule. It was the strongest empire in the world.

Caesar Augustus required that a census be taken to show his power. With the census, the Jews would be required to register. They would have to pay taxes to the Romans.

We learned that God told His people many years ago that His Son would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

Jesus, the Creator of the world, the Son of God, would be born in Bethlehem and in poverty. He was not born in Jerusalem, the city of David, because His kingdom is not of this world. Jesus would reign eternally. Jesus was not going to be an earthly king.

Genesis 49:10

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Jacob, the father of the Israelite tribes had prophesied that the true king would come at the time Jesus was born. Even though the Israelites had been captive they had had a certain amount of autonomy. From the time David was king until the time of the Herods, there had been Israelite governors from the tribe of Judah. Judah had had the scepter. The scepter remained in Judah until the Roman Empire ruled over them. It was at that time that Jesus was born.

When the Romans took their autonomy from the Israelites, the religious leaders believed that God had not kept His promise. But Jesus was born at the time designated by God.

An angel told Mary and Joseph that they were a part of God's marvelous plan. Mary would give birth to the Son of God.

Mary and Joseph did not live in Bethlehem. They lived in Nazareth. They had to walk two days to get to Bethlehem.

Luke 2:1-5

1In 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.) 3And everyone went to his own town to register.

Ask: How did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem?

Joseph lived in Nazareth but his family was from Bethlehem. He was a descendent of King David who was from Bethlehem.

Mary went with Joseph even though she was very pregnant. They both knew that she was ready to have her baby any day! Since the Israelites were under Roman rule that had to go and register so that they could pay taxes. They had no choice.

They looked and looked for a place to stay for the night. There were many people in Bethlehem because of the census. Every place they went was full. They must have wondered why God was letting things happen this way, but God knew exactly what He was doing. Finally, they found a place to stay.

Jesus did all these things for a very special reason. Jesus came to help us get to Heaven. There was no way we could get there on our own, so God sent His Son to show us the way. How do we get to Heaven? We have to believe in Jesus and know that He lived, died on a cross, and came back to life again. We must tell God we are sorry for all the wrongs we have done. Ask Him to come into our lives and He will! We will go to Heaven one day and be with God!

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and have new life.