

Expository Thoughts On Luke - Luke 2:1-7

by J.C. Ryle

Transcript

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

We have, in these verses, the story of a birth--the birth of the incarnate Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. Every birth of a living child is a marvelous event. It brings into being a soul that will never die. But never since the world began was a birth so marvelous as the birth of Christ. In itself it was a miracle--"God was manifest in the flesh." (1 Tim. 3:16.) The blessings it brought into the world were unspeakable--it opened to man the door of everlasting life.

In reading these verses, let us first notice the **TIMES** when Christ was born. It was in the days when Augustus, the first Roman emperor, made "a decree that all the world should be taxed."

The wisdom of God appears in this simple fact. The scepter was practically departing from Judah. (Gen. 49:10.) The Jews were coming under the dominion and taxation of a foreign power. Strangers were beginning to rule over them. They had no longer a really independent government of their own. The "due time" had come for the promised Messiah to appear. Augustus taxes "the world," and at once Christ is born.

It was a time peculiarly suitable for the introduction of Christ\

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