

## **Classic Christmas**

*Week #1: Reality TV — Many people see Christmas as a season of stories, tales, and legends. There is a magical feeling in the air as we retell the classic stories of Christmas. But Christians believe in more than a story. We base our joy on recorded history—real times, real places, real people. And a real Savior from our real sins.*

- Luke 2:1-3— *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. .*

It occurred at a real **time** in history.

- Luke 2:4-5— *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.*

It went down in a real **city** in Israel.

- Matthew 1:18-20 - *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

It involved a real **couple** expecting a baby.

- Luke 2:6-7— *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.*
- Matthew 1:21-25 - *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.*

It brought a real **Savior** for real **sins**.

- Galatians 4:4,5 - *But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.*

### **Points to Ponder**

- 1) Luke 2:1-7 are probably the most repeated and memorized words of all time. How does that fact negatively impact how people view those words? How does that fact positively impact how we can use those words?
- 2) There are so many Christmas stories that are retold - from Rudolph and his “red nose” to Frosty and the “magic” hat - that some people just lump Luke 2 into that same fairytale category. How does making it “real” change that for you? How might it change how you use it to witness to others?
- 3) A classic is “historically memorable” and a “work of enduring excellence”. Make a case for why Luke 2 is both classic by the world’s definition and also why it is a work of enduring excellence for you personally?

***Homework: Luke 1:26-56***