



INCARNATION: LIGHT COMES

December 19, 2010

Luke 2:1-14

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 their own town to register.

⁴So 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. “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.” ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and 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.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Matthew 1:20-21

²⁰But 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. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

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.”

Study Questions:

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today’s message to everyday life.

A note from Pastor Dwain:

Dear Church Family,

Since all of your Community Groups are on break this week for the holidays and parties, we’re taking a break from the study questions too. Still, I encourage you to read with your family the biblical story of Christmas {Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25, John 1: 1-14}. Talk about whether you believe these events actually happened, why you believe that, and what difference they can make in your lives.

If “The Doctrine is the Drama” series has been meaningful to your faith, I encourage you to go back over these messages—they’re available for download on the website, or on CD by request—and dig deeper into the topics through your own personal study. Many of you are already doing so, and I’ve really enjoyed our conversations about what you’re learning and especially about how Jesus is working in your lives. If you’ve felt the pull of these great truths as we’ve flown over them, and still haven’t joined the journey of discovery, this would be a great week to start. Who knows, as a result next year could be the greatest year of adventure of your life!

I especially want to say something to you—from my family to yours, and from your church staff and their families, to each one of you and yours. It is this: We are praying that you have the most truth-filled, and blessed Christmas ever. More of that when we see each other on Christmas Eve!

Whatever you bring to him this year, I know God will fulfill his promise to heal, grow, and enliven you.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Dwain

