

The Coming of the Great King

Luke 2:4-5, 10-14; various texts

Why Bethlehem?

- Was Jesus' birth in the Bethlehem a matter of coincidence or was there more to it?
- Bethlehem has a rich history before the birth of Jesus
 - It is where Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife, was buried (Gen. 35:19)
 - It was the hometown of Naomi and became the adopted home of Ruth
 - And it was the hometown of David
 - Because of its connection with David, Bethlehem became associated with the coming Messiah (Mic. 5:2-5a)
- Thus, Jesus' birth in Bethlehem was not coincidence
 - But rather, part of God's orchestrated plan
 - And a clear declaration that Jesus came to be Messiah!

What is Messiah?

- Messiah is the promised king of Israel
 - From the lineage of David
 - Called 'Christ' in Greek
- The expectation of the Jews of Jesus' day was that Messiah came to conquer Israel's enemies
 - Seen as Rome at that time
- But the people's expectations were wrong
 - So much so, that they doubted, mocked, and arrested Jesus over it (John 7:42; Mark 15:32; Luke 23:2)

The Coming of the Great King

- Jesus came to be Messiah
 - The king who would win victory over the enemies of God's people
 - The king who would bring peace (Isa 9:6-7)
 - But, the enemy was not Rome or some human institution
 - It was sin & death
 - And the peace He offers is not simply a lack of conflict
 - But real peace with God (Rom 5:1)
- That was the message that the shepherds heard that night over 2000 years ago (Luke 2:10-14)

So What?

- Do you know Jesus as King?
- Do you have peace with God through Jesus?
- That is what why we celebrate this time each year

Meditation Verse: Luke 2:14