

Time Audit Chronicles: The Nativity of Jesus

(Luke 2:1-20)

Prologue: The Birth of the Savior

The Presswood family sat together by the fireplace, the warmth of the flames flickering gently in the background. Ariel had just finished reading Luke 2:1-20, the account of Jesus' birth, and was reflecting on the powerful imagery and the significance of that night in Bethlehem. Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter tucked under her arm, was pretending to be a shepherd, mimicking the story in her playful way.

"Daddy," Ariel began, "Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel all the way to Bethlehem? And why was Jesus born in a manger?"

Ryan smiled, recognizing the curiosity in his daughter's voice. "Those are great questions, Ariel. Mary and Joseph were living in Nazareth, but the Roman emperor, **Caesar Augustus**, ordered a census to be taken. Every person had to return to their hometown to be counted. For Joseph, that meant traveling with Mary to Bethlehem, because that was where his family line came from. And as for why Jesus was born in a manger—it was because there was no room for them in the inn. Bethlehem was crowded with people who had come for the census, and so Mary and Joseph ended up in a stable, where Jesus was laid in a manger, a feeding trough for animals."

Ariel looked thoughtful. "So, even though Jesus was the Son of God, He was born in a humble place because there was no room for them in the town. That shows how different Jesus' birth was from what people expected."

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus' birth was humble and lowly, and that would be a theme throughout His life. He came not as a king with earthly wealth and power, but as a Savior who would serve and sacrifice for the world. His humble beginnings in a manger were a sign of His mission to bring God's kingdom to the poor, the outcast, and the humble."

Ariel smiled, beginning to understand the depth of the story. "I think I'm starting to see how special this night was."

"Yes," Ryan said. "Let's use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness the moment when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, when the angels announced His birth, and when the shepherds came to see the Savior for themselves."

The Journey Begins: Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem *(Luke 2:1-5)*

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves on a dusty road, walking beside Mary and Joseph as they traveled to Bethlehem. The landscape was rugged and the air dry, with the hills of Judea stretching out before them.

“This is the journey to Bethlehem,” Ryan said. “Mary and Joseph were traveling from Nazareth, which was about 70 miles away, and Mary was pregnant with Jesus. It must have been a difficult journey, especially for Mary, who was near the time of her delivery.”

Ariel looked around, imagining the long road ahead. “I can’t imagine how hard it must have been to travel so far, especially for Mary. And Joseph must have felt the weight of the responsibility to get them safely to Bethlehem.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “But Joseph was a faithful man, and he took care of Mary, trusting God’s plan for them. Their journey was part of God’s plan, fulfilling the prophecy in **Micah 5:2**, which said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.”

The Birth of Jesus in the Manger (*Luke 2:6-7*)

As the family walked beside Mary and Joseph, the scene shifted to a small, humble stable in Bethlehem. Inside, Mary and Joseph had arrived, and Mary, exhausted from the long journey, gave birth to her firstborn son. The baby Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger—a feeding trough for animals.

Ariel looked at the simple, humble scene. “Jesus, the Son of God, was born in a stable. That’s so different from what people might have expected—no palace, no throne, just a small, humble place where animals were kept.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ birth in a manger shows that He came for everyone, especially the humble and lowly. His first bed wasn’t a royal crib—it was a feeding trough, a sign that He came to serve and be a Savior for all people, no matter their status or wealth.”

Ariel was quiet for a moment, considering the humility of Jesus’ birth. “It’s amazing to think that the Savior of the world was born in such a humble way.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “It was God’s way of showing us that His kingdom is not about earthly power and riches, but about love, humility, and sacrifice.”

The Angelic Announcement to the Shepherds (*Luke 2:8-14*)

As the family reflected on the scene, a sudden brilliance filled the sky. Angels appeared to a group of shepherds who were in the fields nearby, tending their flocks. The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.” (Luke 2:9)

Ariel looked up, amazed. “The angels appeared to the shepherds—just ordinary people out in the fields. That’s incredible!”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The angels came to the shepherds, who were among the poorest and most humble in society. The message of Jesus’ birth was not just for kings or the wealthy—it was for everyone. The angels brought the good news to those who were outcasts and overlooked by society, showing that Jesus came for the lowly and humble.”

The Good News: A Savior Is Born (*Luke 2:10-12*)

The angel reassured the shepherds and gave them the incredible news of Jesus’ birth:

“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Ariel smiled in wonder. “The angels said that this news would bring great joy to all people. That means Jesus came for everyone—no matter who they are.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus came to bring joy and salvation to the world. The angels didn’t just announce the birth of a baby; they announced the arrival of the Savior. This was the moment when God’s salvation plan was unfolding, and the Savior of the world was born to bring peace, joy, and hope to all people.”

The Heavenly Host: Glory to God in the Highest (*Luke 2:13-14*)

Suddenly, a heavenly host of angels appeared, praising God and proclaiming:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

Ariel’s heart swelled with the beauty of the angelic praise. “The angels proclaimed peace on earth and good will toward men. That’s the message of Christmas—peace and good will because Jesus, the Prince of Peace, has come.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, his voice full of awe. “The angels declared that Jesus’ birth was a message of peace and reconciliation. Through Jesus, we can have peace with God and with each other. This is the hope that Jesus brings to the world—the hope of God’s peace and His good will toward us.”

The Shepherds’ Response: Going to See the Savior (*Luke 2:15-16*)

After hearing the angel’s message, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem to see the newborn Savior for themselves:

“And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:16)

Ariel smiled as she thought about the shepherds rushing to see Jesus. “The shepherds didn’t waste any time—they went immediately to see the baby. They were so excited to see the Savior with their own eyes.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The shepherds were the first to hear the good news, and they immediately acted on it. They didn’t keep the message to themselves—they shared it with others, and their excitement and joy spread throughout Bethlehem.”

The Shepherds’ Witness: Telling the Good News (*Luke 2:17-20*)

The shepherds spread the news of what they had seen, praising God for what they had witnessed. They couldn’t keep the joy to themselves:

“And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”
(Luke 2:17-18)

Ariel looked at her father. “The shepherds were the first evangelists—they went out and told everyone about Jesus. It shows that the good news of Jesus isn’t just for a few people—it’s for everyone.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “The shepherds’ response to the birth of Jesus was to share the good news with others. They were witnesses to the truth, and they couldn’t help but tell everyone they met about the Savior.”

Reflection: The Message of Christmas

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the profound story of Jesus’ birth and the angels’ announcement. Ariel

turned to her father, her heart full of understanding. Alice, still with Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to announce the birth of Jesus to her toys.

“Jesus came into the world in such a humble way,” Ariel said softly. “Born in a manger, with only Mary, Joseph, and a few shepherds to witness it. But the angels declared His birth to the world, showing that His arrival is for everyone.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus came for all people—He didn’t come as a powerful king, but as a humble Savior. His birth was a sign that God’s love and salvation were for everyone, regardless of their status or background.”

Ariel smiled, understanding the significance. “The message of Christmas isn’t just about a baby—it’s about the Savior of the world bringing peace and joy to all people.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “And like the shepherds, we’re called to share the good news of Jesus with others. His birth is the best news the world has ever received.”

Takeaway: The Peace and Joy of Christmas

In Luke 2:1-20, the birth of Jesus is announced as the greatest gift of joy and peace to the world. Jesus, born in a humble manger, came not as a ruler of earthly power but as a Savior bringing hope, salvation, and peace to all people. The angels proclaimed His birth to the shepherds, the outcasts of society, showing that God's gift of salvation is for everyone. Just as the shepherds shared the good news of Jesus' birth with others, we are called to share the message of His peace, joy, and salvation with the world. The true meaning of Christmas is the arrival of the Savior—bringing light into the darkness and offering peace on earth and good will toward men.