

"God's Wisdom in the Christmas Story"**Luke 2**

Introduction: Over the past several weeks in our study of the Chaos in our World we have looked at the need for the wisdom of God in our lives. Today as we look at the birth of Jesus Christ, I want to help you to see the wisdom of God that was on display in the way that the events unfolded. Now because we know the wisdom of God is perfect, we therefore should be sure to align ourselves with His wisdom. It should be our goal in our every day lives to make sure that we are walking with God so as to have His wisdom for the journey we are on. In Romans chapter 11 Paul was writing about God and His wisdom and starting in verse 33 Paul breaks out in praise for the wisdom of God.

Romans 11:33-36

³³ *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

³⁴ *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?*

³⁵ *Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?*

³⁶ *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Then we read the words of Solomon concerning his thoughts on wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

² *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

⁶ *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Wisdom is like buried treasure. To get it one must have the desire for it and then get in the Bible to search for it. Today I want to show you the wisdom of God so that you will long for more of it.

➤ **God's Wisdom in the Timing of the Birth**

Notice Luke 2:1a

This phrase for sure refers back to the previous chapter and the events of the conception of John the Baptist, but I believe there is much more behind the meaning. Let us notice another verse.

Galatians 4:4

⁴ *But when the fulness of the time was come*, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

What does Paul mean when he tells us that Jesus was born when the fulness of time was come? Notice the words of Wiersbe.

"Historians tell us that the Roman world was in great expectation, waiting for a Deliverer, at the time when Jesus was born. The old religions were dying; the old philosophies were empty and powerless to change men's lives. Strange new mystery religions were invading the empire. Religious bankruptcy and spiritual hunger were everywhere. God was preparing the world for the arrival of His Son."

Not only were the people anticipating a Deliverer but the language had much to do with God's timing. In 331 B.C. the Grecians conquered the Persians. Alexander the Great led the Grecians. So, the Grecians were in power before the Romans. The Grecians would be the world power almost to the time of Jesus birth but why? God allowed the Greeks to be in power because they had developed the most precise language on the earth. It was more accurate than any other language on earth. This language was then adopted by most of the Gentile nation and became a universal trade language of the world. So, it was a language that all the Gentile nations understood.

Now let us tie this to the birth of Jesus Christ. By the time Jesus was to be born God had brought about the most accurate human language on the earth and it was a universal language that had been adopted by most nations. Think about how important this was to the spread of the Greatest message ever told, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Getting back to Galatians 4 "when the fulness of time was come" is a statement that tells us God had worked in the lives of mankind to make it possible for the world to hear and understand the Gospel. Do you see the wisdom of God?

Romans 8:28

²⁸ *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

Jesus could have been born in Noah's day, or Abraham's day, or in the Babylonian captivity, or any other time. But it would not have been "in the fulness of time."

Application:

God has an appointed time for everything in our lives. God in His sovereign control arranges the events of our lives according to His plan.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

This is why we are told to wait upon the Lord.

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

➤ **The Wisdom of God in the Place of the Birth**

Notice Luke 2:1-7

When we step into this scene there is much, we do not see. Rome had been devastated by civil wars. There was immorality and poverty. They were hungry for a saviour to turn it all around. Now enter Ceasar Augustus. Listen to some history.

"But as great a man as Caesar Augustus was, he was only a man. And the man who brought the answers also took a dear price. He demanded absolute power over the Roman Empire. For hundreds and hundreds of years, Rome prided itself on being a republic — a nation governed by laws, not by any man. The idea that no man was above the law, and the Roman Senate and the army and various political leaders lived together in a sometimes-difficult arrangement. Now, Octavius would change all that. In 27 B.C. he arranged for the Roman Senate to give him the title Augustus, which means "exalted" and "sacred." Now Rome wasn't a republic, governed by laws; it was an empire governed by an emperor. The first Emperor of Rome was this same Caesar Augustus."

Here we see that Augustus issued a decree that all in the Roman Empire had to register for tax purposes in the city where they were born. This happened at the time when Mary was great with child. Why would God permit such a decree when Mary was so close to giving birth?

Micah 5:2

² *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

God had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem so in His wisdom God moved the mind of Augustus to call for a census.

Application:

When I consider Mary's situation, I am reminded that God is more concerned in being faithful than He is in our comfort and ease. Mary and Joseph had to make a journey of about 80 miles.

Let me just remind you that sometimes our plans do not go as expected. Sometimes the path we are given to walk is very difficult. But let us keep in mind that God has a purpose for all that we experience. Ultimately in all of it we are to glorify Him.

1 Peter 5:6-10

⁶ *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*

⁷ *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

⁹ *Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

¹⁰ *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

➤ **The Wisdom of God in the Announcement**

Notice Luke 2:8-11

God could have made the announcement to many different groups of people but He made the choice to have the angels make the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ to a group of shepherds. Why choose the shepherds?

They represent all the people in the world. They were in the dark. They were the outcasts of society.

Application:

Every one of us is born into spiritual darkness. We are all born sinners and therefore from the day we are born we live in spiritual darkness.

Proverbs 4:18-19

¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

John 3:18-20

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

Not only were we born into spiritual darkness but we were also spiritual outcasts.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Notice Luke 2:10-11 again.

The message was for all the world and at the same time it was personal.

Universal - Jesus came to offer salvation to all the world not just to the elect.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Personal - While the Gospel is universal each person must accept Jesus Christ in order to be saved.

John 3:3

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Notice Luke 2:12-20

The shepherds did not keep the message to themselves but they were quick to tell others. **This was the wisdom of God.** He knew they would carry the message to a society that was anticipating a Deliverer.

Application:

We too live in a society that is looking in anticipation of a leader that will have all the answers. Little do they know that there is one coming but he is the Anti-Christ. Our world is being set up for his arrival. But we have the message of the True Deliverer so the question is, "What are we doing with the message?" God gave it to us so that we would be like the shepherds here and share it with an expectant society.

Conclusion:

Notice Luke 2:20 again.

Here we see the result of meeting Jesus. Have you come to Jesus? Have you received Him as your Savior? Is there joy in your life?