

‘After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed’
– Acts 5:37

AD 6: taxation is nothing more than introduction to slavery
Judas led a revolt; riots...
Led to formation of Zealot party

Power of God: Birth of Jesus

Luke 2

I. The Passage

The Place, 1-7

- Augustus (1-2)
- 31 BC – AD 14

Decree, 1-3

Roman Empire, 1

Bethlehem, 4-5

“It’s time,” 6

Manger...Inn, 7

The Place, 1-7

The People: shepherds, 8-20

- Shepherds in field, 8
- Angel, 9-10
- Savior, 11 (Mic.5:2) – not political leader
 - Sign (12): baby swaddled, in manger
- Multitude of angels, 13-14
- Shepherds find Jesus, 15-17
- People marvel, 18
- Mary ponders; shepherds praise, 19-20

The Place, 1-7

The People: shepherds, 8-20

The Presentation, 21-24

- Circumcision / named, 21. Ga.4:4
- Presentation to Lord, 22-23 (Ex.13:1-2, 11-12, 15)
- Sacrifice, 24. Lv.12:1-4...8

The Place, 1-7

The People: shepherds, 8-20

The Presentation, 21-24

The Prophet, 25-35

- Simeon, 25-26 . . . ‘by the Spirit,’ 27-28
 - His life complete, 29-32
 - Eyes, 30 [1 Jn.1:1]
- Gentiles, 32. Doxology
- Mary and Joseph marvel, 33
- Simeon’s prophecy, 34-35

Opposition
(34)

Revelation
(35)

The Place, 1-7

The People: shepherds, 8-20

The Presentation, 21-24

The Prophet, 25-35

The Prophetess, 36-38

- Asher, 36
- Age, 36-37?

Age 84. Married age 15~
7 yrs.; 62 years a widow

Age 106~. Married age 15~
7 yrs.; 84 years a widow

The Place, 1-7

The People: shepherds, 8-20

The Presentation, 21-24

The Prophet, 25-35

The Prophetess, 36-38

- Asher, 36
- Age, 36-37
- Activity, 37 – serving God
- Arrival, 38 – same reaction as Simeon

I. The Passage

II. The Point
(So what?)

1. Augustus, 1-2 [31 BC – AD 14]

- Had no idea that God would use his decree to fulfill biblical prophecy

TIME · PLACE · PERSON

- Hb.11:23
- God used Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander . . . Augustus. Gal.4:4

4: Pagan king on throne; God rules

Augustus: 44 yrs.
Jesus, eternity

1. Augustus, 1-2 [31 BC – AD 14]

- Had no id... his
decreed to...
TII
- Hb.11:23
Roman roads
Roman peace
Roman laws
Greek language
- God used Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus,
Alexander . . . Augustus. Gal.4:4

4: Pagan king on
throne; God rules

Augustus: 44 yrs.
Jesus, eternity

2. Inn-keeper, 7

- Not cruel monster – inn was filled
- Many hearts are full
 - Riches...honor...prestige...pleasures...
business, etc.
 - Some Christians have no room for Bible study, time to work in Kingdom, concern for other people...

3. Most important event in world history, 7

- In stable?
- What other king would begin here?
- God elevates lowly, rejects the proud.
Ph.2

4. Great joy, 8-10

- Average person can experience some joy
- Great joy: 1 Pt. 1:8 – lot of God's people
 - Sinner knows he is out of duty

5. **Shepherds show us. . .16-20**

- Eager to come to Jesus, 16

Shepherds first at manger.
Women first at tomb.

- After seeing Jesus, changed men.
 - Samaritan, Lk.17
 - Apostles, Ac.4
 - Eunuch, Ac.8

‘Sir, we wish to see
Jesus’ – Jn.12:21

5. **Shepherds show us. . .16-20**

Shepherds first preachers of His birth.
Women first preachers of His resurrection.

- Shepherds were considered ignorant; not allowed to testify in court.
- High, sophisticated people often miss truth. 1 Co.1:26

6. 'as it was told them...' 20

- God's promises and prophecies never fall short of their claims.

7. Jesus, the litmus test, 34-35

- Neutrality is impossible
 - We are with Him or against Him
 - We are saved or lost

Everything depends on what
we do with Jesus

- A contrast: Pilate – robber on cross

8. No matter our age,
God can use us, 37

- There is always something we can do