

Luke 2:1-7

- For the first few centuries the church
- First ref to 12/25 was in the _____

I. The _____ Conditions 1-3

Census

Estimates - 75-100 miles

God does as He pleases with whom He pleases... Ezek 7, Is 10, Is 45.

II. The _____ Conditions 4-5

Scene Change from Rome to Galilee

The couple had to go to Bethlehem since Joseph was born there. Mary accompanied him. She didn't have to go but Joseph would not have left her...

They were engaged. In Jewish culture this was as legally binding as marriage but forbade the physical relationship intended for marriage alone. Dissolving the engagement required a legal divorce in Jewish culture.

III. The _____ Conditions 6-7

The glory of Caesar compared to the lowly entry of our Redeemer....

Jesus was Mary's firstborn, not her only begotten.

Born in a stable?

IV. Philosophical Considerations

Philip Ryken asked the question "why was Jesus born into this crude, smelly and lonely place?"

- It shows the depravity of our sin....

Bethlehem was unaware of what God was doing and Watson is as well. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. (John 1:11)

- It reveals the humanity of our Savior....

He didn't just seem human, He was human. When He was born, He gave up some of His divine prerogatives....

- It shows His humility in our Salvation....

JC Ryle "...to become poor as the very poorest of mankind, as lowly as the lowliest – this is a love that passes knowledge, unspeakable and unsearchable.