

Setting the Stage: Caesar Augustus was the first of the Roman Emperors. This was Caius Octavius. He was a great-nephew of Julius Caesar. Augustus was his title. He took the name "Caesar" by courtesy and by adoption. In the process of time "Augustus" was dropped, and the title became "Caesar." Gradually the power of government had been taken from the people and vested in military governors; and at last this man, a singularly able man, a singularly astute man, gained the supreme power. He became the first emperor, the first Imperator, with a capital "I." "Imperator" is a military title. The generals of the Roman Republic had all been called "Imperators"; but at last the plural ended, and the singular marked despotism, autocracy. The Roman republic had passed away, and in its place had emerged the Roman Empire, under Augustus Caesar. He declined to be called "dictator," which suggests a temporary office. He declined to be called "king," as it did not signify enough. In consultation with the Roman Senate, this name was created for him, "Augustus," derivable from the word "Augur"; and consequently indicating a religious sanction. He was moving toward that which happened subsequently, the claim of deity on the part of the supreme ruler of the Roman Empire.

The Gospel According to Luke by G. Campbell Morgan

"All the world," is the Roman world not the whole of the planet.

"should be taxed" [KJV] was the declaration preceded by registration. Quirinius became governor of Syria ten years after Jesus was born. This taxation is what led to the insurrection mentioned in Acts 5:37.

God caused His scriptures to be fulfilled by moving Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Isaiah 7:14, the virgin birth, Micah 5:2 Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

V.7 "there was no room for them in the inn" does not say because they were poor. The ancient tradition, that Jesus was born in a grotto or cave, is quite consistent with this, the country being rocky.

REJOICING OF THE SHEPHERDS, vs. 8-20

1. KJV, V. 9 "the angel of the Lord stood over them," glory shown around them.
2. Vs. 10-12, angel's message. Don't be afraid, I bring glad tidings, Christ is born today, Isaiah 9:6.
3. The sign given; (1) a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, (2) lying in a manger.
4. The "word" is made flesh [fresh], when? Today, Where? Bethlehem.
5. Joining the angel was a multitude of angels praising God.
6. Some believe that the three phrases spoken by the angels were sung in a three- part song, v.14
7. The shepherds spread the news, vs. 17-20

REJOICING IN THE TEMPLE, vs. 21-38

1. Circumcision in token of His subjection to the law, Galatians 4:4-6
2. Day of purification is 33 days after the 7 days of her uncleanness, so 40 days in all, after the birth of a male child, Leviticus 12:2-4
3. Joseph and Mary brought two turtle doves or two young pigeons to fulfill the law.
4. The rejoicing of Simeon, vs. 25-35
 - a. Walking in the Spirit.
 - b. He took Him up in his arms and blessed Him.
 - c. Then Simeon blessed the parents

- d. This child is set for the fall of many, Isaiah 8:14-15,
 - e. But in time the rising again of many in Israel, Romans 11:11-12
 - f. Maybe he was referring to Isaiah 11: 10-12
5. The rejoicing of Anna
- a. Some believe she was at least 103 yrs.
 - b. Spent time in fasting and prayer, v.37

Last Words: Today is the day of salvation