

Jesus is Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7, NIRV)

¹ In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. ² It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be listed.

⁴ So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. ⁵ He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

⁶ While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. There was no room for them in the inn.

Thought Questions:

- 1.) What are your impressions of Christmas? What do you think is the main thing being celebrated?
- 2.) In part of the Bible written 700 years before Jesus was born, there is a prediction that the Savior the Jewish people were waiting for would be born in a small town called Bethlehem. (The Lord says, "Bethlehem, you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come a ruler over Israel for me..." Micah 5:2, NIRV) How did God use the Roman census (list of people) to fulfill his plans for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem?
- 3.) How do you think you would have felt if you were Mary?
- 4.) What kind of a location would you expect for the birth of God's son? How was the actual situation different?
- 5.) What do you think we can learn about God from the timing and conditions of the birth of Jesus?
- 6.) Do you think God cares for you when you have difficulties in your life? Why or why not?

