



12/23/24

I was thinking... I wonder why the Lord had the wise men arrive when Jesus was about 2 years old. I wonder if it's because that would be the earliest age His sinlessness would have been evident. I mean, think about it... the terrible twos! He never had the terrible twos! Maybe that's why they so quickly fell down and worshiped Him.

*Merry Christmas Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 2:1-7, Isaiah 7:14

If I could pick just one thing from this Christmas season that has impacted me about the birth of Jesus, it would be how God sovereignly moved with His perfectly fulfilled promise... He was not bound by time. No circumstance surprised Him. Man's inability to understand the whole picture didn't hurt the fulfillment of His promise. Demons couldn't stop Him.

I see His sovereignty in this passage in Luke 2. Caesar Augustus did not know God's plan. God didn't go to him and say, "Hey, I've got to get Mary and Joseph to travel 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem just in time for Mary to give birth to My Son. So, do you have any ideas? Can you help Me out?" No... Caesar Augustus just woke up one day and thought, "I think I'll do a census and make everyone go back to their homes of lineage." He was probably just power hungry. Whatever his motive, God in His infinite nature was able to accomplish His purpose through this finite man.

Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the House of Bread, the place where their ancestor, David, lived as a child. They got to Bethlehem and Mary said, "Joseph, it's time." I don't know, maybe her water broke. But there were probably a lot of Israelites traveling to this tiny little town. That was fine with God. Maybe that's why He used this census to get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. He didn't WANT Mary to give birth in a nice, comfy hotel room. He WANTED her to give birth in a barn... where the little lambs were... because Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

I think it was no coincidence that God ordained Jesus to be born in this barn and laid in a

manger, a feeding trough... in the town where the lambs were used as the unblemished sacrificial lambs that the priests used to offer to cover the sins of the people.

I see God's sovereignty all over this story. Not the least of all His declared plans was the fact that Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus. This was a fulfilled prophecy from Isaiah 7:14, written 700 years before Jesus was born.

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign." The Lord HIMSELF. God is so invested in His plan that He personally gave the sign... through the Holy Spirit who planted this baby in Mary's womb. The Messiah would not be an angel, but He would be the Son of God Himself. "Behold... check it out... the virgin (Mary) will conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Immanuel... God with us. God does not keep Himself at a distance. He is WITH us... personally. This is His plan, and it was always His plan.

God declared the end from the beginning, as He said in Isaiah 46:8-10... I'm sure there were many who thought the prophecy didn't make sense, so they tried to explain it away or just ignore it altogether. But God knew exactly what He was doing. No one could bully Him into proving Himself before the appointed time. Everything He said would happen, did happen.

What do I take from this? I recognize that He is the infinite who came to redeem me, the finite. He has the big picture. I do not. I NEVER have the big picture, but I can entrust myself to the One who does. I need to humble myself before Him and let Him lead. I pray that I will take to heart Romans 13:16, "Never be wise in your own sight."

O Lord, You are sovereign... You did everything in Your perfect time as You perfectly planned it because You have all the power to accomplish Your purpose. You are wise... You knew exactly what You needed to do in order to accomplish Your many purposes, including letting me see how You weaved everything together so that my faith could grow. You are good and loving... that is the ONLY reason You would send Your Son from His throne and have Him empty Himself and become a baby who would grow to be a sinless man... who gave Himself as the replacement payment for the sin of the whole world. I bow to You. I trust Your wisdom, Your plan, Your leading.