



Sunday Morning, December 5, 2021 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** Comfort and Joy in Uncertain Times

**Message Text:** Luke 2

### Introduction:

When Jesus came to earth the first time, He came in the midst of uncertain times politically, financially and religiously. Yet, that night He brought true comfort and joy! The angels announced His birth as tidings that would bring great joy. These were joyful tidings because Jesus was not just another man, but the promised Savior, helper, comforter of all men. *“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:10-11) Let’s discover Jesus as our comfort and joy even in uncertain times.

## 1. World-Wide

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

*Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.*

THOSE DAYS — Roman Occupation, Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 3:3-4)

CAESAR AUGUSTUS — He born in September 23, 63 BC as Gaius Octavius. He was adopted by Julius Caesar who had no son as a way of naming the next Caesar. Augustus rose to sole power over



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the Roman Empire after his victory over the conspirators that assassinated Julius Caesar as well as Mark Antony and Cleopatra of Egypt. This marked a ‘golden age’ of peace and stability.

**WORLD-WIDE TAXING** — A registration for the purpose of taxing One ancient writer, Orosius, likely referred to this registration when he wrote that the census Luke refers to was the one in which all great nations took an oath of loyalty to Caesar and were “made part of one society.”

*John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

*John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

## 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Distress** (2-3)

*Luke 2:2–3 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.*

NOTE: Publius Sulpicius Quirinius (or Cyrenius in the Greek) was a well-known Roman official who lived ca. 51 BC – AD 21. It seems he was governing in *some capacity* in Syria at least in overseeing the census at the time of Christ’s birth. —Bible Archeology Report<sup>1</sup>

**ADVANCING ROMAN EMPIRE** — Rome reached its most significant territorial extent during the reign of Trajan (AD 117). At its climax, the Roman Empire extended from Britain in the Northwest to Egypt in the Southeast, embracing 1.9 million square miles.<sup>2</sup>

**ROMAN ROAD SYSTEM** — 250 thousand miles of roads, of which above 50 thousand miles were stone-paved.<sup>3</sup>

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Demands** (4)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://biblearchaeologyreport.com/2019/12/19/quirinius-an-archaeological-biography/?blogs=confirming#subscribe-blog>

<sup>2</sup> <https://vividmaps.com/roads-of-roman-empire/>

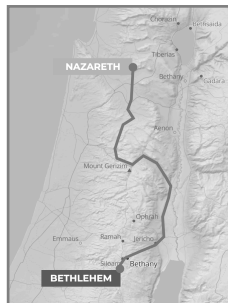
<sup>3</sup> <https://vividmaps.com/roads-of-roman-empire/>

*Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Beth-lehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)*

NOTE: Genealogical records of families and Judah were traditionally kept in their ancestral hometowns, and this was Ron's way of ushering that all paid. —Henry Morris

NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM — \_\_\_\_\_ miles/  
three days

*Luke 2:6–7 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*



*Micah 5:2 But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, Though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; Whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*

*Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

## 4. \_\_\_\_\_ Disillusionment (10-11, 14)

*Luke 2:10–11 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

400 YEARS OF SILENCE — \_\_\_\_\_

HELLENISM — in a religious context refers to the modern pluralistic religion practiced in Greece and around the world by several communities, derived from the beliefs, mythology and rituals from antiquity through and up to today. It is a system of thought and spirituality with a shared culture and values, and common ritualistic, linguistic and literary tradition. More broadly,

Hellenism centers itself around the worship of Hellenic deities, namely the twelve Olympians.<sup>4</sup>

#### CAESAR AUGUSTUS AND RELIGION

Augustus was awarded the office of Pontifex Maximus, chief priest of the Roman world. He performed the role of priest in the state cults.

WORSHIPPED FOR THE \_\_\_\_\_ HE GAVE — the Altar of Peace; the Pax Romana

WORSHIPPED AS \_\_\_\_\_ OF A GOD — *Divi Filius*; son of the deified

WORSHIPPED AS A \_\_\_\_\_ —as noted in the dedication inscription on the Temple of Augustus in Athens.

*Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

QUOTE: Against this background, Luke's announcement of another Savior, who was indeed "Son of God," and who would bring "peace on earth," could not help but be heard as a message with political, as well as "religious," ramifications! —David DiSalva

*Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men. (See also Isaiah 9:6)*

*Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (see also Luke 3:23)*

*Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

#### Conclusion

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<sup>4</sup> "The Ancient Greek practice of Hellenism lives on as a modern religion". The Vintage News. 2017-02-22. Retrieved 2021-08-15.

