

Week of November 30: Luke 2:1-21

JESUS IN ISRAEL



Observation

1. Read Luke 2:1-21. What stands out to you in this account?
Do you notice anything you hadn't seen before?

2. What questions do you have?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text? Things to look for:

- repeating words and phrases
- Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
- contrasts and comparisons
- similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
- cause and effect relationships
- details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
- grammar
- larger themes in the passage
- key words and themes

2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. What do you learn about the world that Jesus was born into through reading this passage?
2. Notice the specific people and places mentioned in this account. Why do you think Luke gives so many specifics? Why do you think that God chose these people at this time and place?
3. N.T. Wright notes in *Luke for Everyone*: "The birth of this little boy is the beginning of a confrontation between the kingdom of God - in all its apparent weakness, insignificant and vulnerability - and the kingdoms of the world." What does this passage show us about what the kingdom of God is like?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. Some commentators note a theme of reversal of status in the birth narrative, where those who have lower status in that society are given greater honour. Who in our world today is given the most honour and why? Do you think that as Christians, is it okay to seek to have honour and power in our society? Why and why not?
2. What does it look like for us to practically live in a way that shows out communities what God's kingdom is like?

Suggestions for Prayer

Share what has impacted you the most from the passage and study today.

How might this shape how you live this week? Pray for each other that God would help you to apply what you have learned.