

The Bethlehem Candle

1

The Bethlehem Candle

**God molds the events of
world history to
accomplish His Purpose.**

2

Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

3

Destruction & Salvation

**In Noah's day, God
judged the world, yet He
preserved one family to
fulfill the promise.**

4

The Founding of Israel

God called the man Abram to leave his country and family to move to a new land. God changed the man's name to Abraham and made him a great nation.

5

The Choosing of David

1 Samuel 16:4 - So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

1 Samuel 16:6-7

So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed is before Him!"

⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

6

The Choosing of David

1 Samuel 16:10-12

Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” ¹¹ And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” ¹² So he sent and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!”

7

Departure to Babylon

2 Kings 24:14-16

Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. ¹⁵ And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king’s mother, the king’s wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. ¹⁶ All the valiant men, seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths, one thousand, all *who were* strong *and* fit for war, these the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

8

Departure to Babylon

Matthew 1:11

Josiah begot **Jeconiah** and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

9

Return Home

Ezra 2:1-2a

Now these *are* the people of the province who came back from the captivity, of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his *own* city. ² *Those* who came with Zerubbabel

10

Return Home

Matthew 1:12

And after they were brought to
Babylon, Jeconiah begot
Shealtiel, and Shealtiel
begot Zerubbabel.

11

The Problem of a Curse

Matthew 1:11

Josiah begot Jeconiah and his
brothers about the time they
were carried away to Babylon.

**Jeconiah is also known as
Cehoiachin or Coniah.**

12

The Problem of a Curse

Jeremiah 22:28-30

“Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol—A vessel in which *is* no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? ²⁹ O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the Lord! ³⁰ Thus says the Lord: ‘Write this man down as childless, A man *who* shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.’ ”

13

The Problem of a Curse

Matthew 1 is Joseph’s genealogy. He is the legal heir to the throne and when he names Jesus, he is adopting him as his own with full right to that throne of David.

Mary’s genealogy is given in

Luke 3:31

“Which was *the son* of Melea, which was *the son* of Menan, which was *the son* of Mattatha, which was *the son* of Nathan, which was *the son* of David.”

14

A World Readied

The Greek language has been described as one of the most expressive and articulate and was developed to express the truths of the New Testament.

15

A World Readied

Rome conquered Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. It provided the roads, and protection for the birth of the Church.

16

A Change of Location

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17

Why Bethlehem?

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among
 the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to
 Me The One to be Ruler in Israel,
 Whose goings forth *are* from of
 old, From everlasting.”

18

A Lesson Learned

David was the “least” of his brethren,
yet chosen of God.

Bethlehem was the least of Judah, yet
chosen to give birth to the Messiah.

Jesus was born, not in a royal palace,
but in a lowly manger, and in poverty
yet He was the King of Kings!

19

Remember the Bread

Bethlehem means “**house of bread**”.

In the house of bread was born the
“**Bread of Life**” (John 6:35, 48)

And **broken for us**
(Matthew 26:26,
1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

20

So What ...

God prepared everything for the arrival of Jesus. He has also prepared a place for you. Each one of us who know Jesus as Savior, can look to see how He orchestrated life to bring us to Him. Think of all that God has done so you can have a relationship with Him!
Praise Him for He is Worthy!