

SERMON TEXT: **Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)**

Vs. 1 – In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Vs. 2 - (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

Vs. 3 - And everyone went to his own town to register.

Vs. 4 - So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Vs. 5 - He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Vs. 6 - While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

Vs. 7 - and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

GREETING: In the town of David a Savior has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord.

God causes nations to rise and nations to fall. (Romans 13:1-7)

In the book of Daniel, God revealed to Daniel that there would be four nations that would rise and fall.

Daniel learned that the four beasts were FOUR Kingdoms. **Dan. 7:17:** “**The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.**” (See also Daniel 8:1-22)

Those four kingdoms are:

**1. The Babylonians** – Which were in power at the time of Daniel’s dream.

The **Babylonians** you will remember carried the tribe of Judah into captivity which lasted for 70 years. From 586 B.C – 516 B.C. Area of Iraq. The Lion with wings of an Eagle.

**2. The Next Kingdom** was the Kingdom of the **Medes / Persians**.

Area of Iran. – The Bear with Ribs in its Teeth. They conquered the Babylonians.

**3. After the Medes and Persians** came the **Greek** Empire.

Alexander the Great = The Leopard with four wings.

Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and the Persians with his rapid and quick striking troops. Alexander defeated much larger masses of Medes and Persian troops.

**4. Then after the Greeks** came the **ROMANS**. The Terrifying Beast with the horns.

Rome was the nation in control of great areas of land at the time that Jesus was crucified.

Each Nation was according to God’s Command and Control.

It is God Who causes nations to rise and nations to fall. (Ps. 135:10)

Joseph and Mary were living at the time when the Roman Empire was in control.

[Augustus Caesar](#) (Reigned from 27 BC - 14 AD) was the name of the first and, by most accounts, greatest [Roman emperor](#). Augustus was born Gaius Octavius Thurinus on 23 September 63 BC – Died – 14 AD.

According to historians, the Roman Empire at the time of Jesus stretched from the land of Israel and then it included the northern portions of Africa (Egypt) along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, as far west as Spain and France and England, and then back East again to present day Turkey. Basically, the land along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

God used the Roman rule and the need for a census to tax the people to get Joseph and Mary to the town of Bethlehem to fulfill the O.T. prophesy in Micah 5:2 – That the Savior of Mankind would be born in the city of David – Bethlehem.

How much are you influenced in your daily life by the American way of life, practices, culture?

As American citizens, nearly everything we do has some connection to being an American. And being an American is a melting pot of various cultures.

We pay taxes. We obey the laws on the highway by driving on the correct side of the road, stopping at stop signs. We dress with American fashion, even though fashion changes and we might not follow every fad or craze. As American's we speak English, even though some who live in America may not have been in the States long enough speak as clearly as others. And I am sure that if you make a list of American influences, you can come up with more.

As Jesus is born, the Romans are in control.

God used the Roman rule to get Mary & Joseph where He wanted them, when He wanted them there, and that is in Bethlehem.

This is to fulfill the promise / prophesy that God made through the O.T. Prophet Micah 5:2.  
The Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

God has placed each one of us, where He wants us to be, when He wants us here in this world to carry out His Work. That Work is to serve Him in everything that we say and do.

To proclaim the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven through / in and because of Jesus the Christ.

God has brought you into His Kingdom that will never end.

God has brought you into His Kingdom through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

That is the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

Through faith in Him, you are part of the everlasting / eternal Kingdom.

What a joyous Christmas Present from God! – Heaven.

**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, (KJV)

4 But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (RSV)

Galatians 4:5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (KJV)

5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (RSV) AMEN

THEME: And It Came to Pass – In the Days of Caesar Augustus.

What came to pass? When the time had fully come, she gave birth.