

GROUP GUIDE

## Harvest Baptist Fellowship

THE LIFE OF CHRIST / WEDNESDAYS SUMMER/FALL 2022

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

LUKE 2:1-20

Wed 06/29/2022

| READ LUKE 2:1-7.

### Micah 5:2

Augustus ruled the Roman Empire from 30 B.C. to A.D. 14.

From about 30 B.C. onward, the Caesars ordered people in the various Roman provinces to report every 14 years for a census for purposes of taxation.

Bethlehem, a three- to four-day journey from Galilee, was the village where King David, through whose line the Messiah was to come, had lived.

Joseph was from the line of David and Bethlehem was the city of David, so this is where Joseph's family and clan would have lived (which is why he would have had property there).

Normally only the head of the household needed to register. However, in some Roman provinces, all women over 12 were required to pay a poll tax, so this may have been the reason Mary accompanied Joseph on this trip.

| READ LUKE 2:8-20.

It was to shepherds that the great announcement was madeâ€”not to kings, nor to priests; not to the wealthy, nor even to the religious. But it was to lower-class working men that the angel of the Lord appeared to announce the birth of the Savior. Luke was concerned throughout his Gospel, as well as in Acts, that the message of Christ be spread to all people. The shepherds became the first witnesses, announcing the good news of God that is centered in the story of Jesus.

In the Old Testament, this term only applied to God (Isa. 43:3, 11). God's deliverance of Israel (first from Egypt and then, centuries later, from Babylon) illustrates that the title

is meant to honor God as the One who rescues His people from an otherwise unbeatable foe. This title was ascribed to Jesus as the One who saves His people from sin and death. Christ means one anointed by God to rule. This is the Greek word for the Hebrew title, Messiah. In Jewish thought, this meant the prophesied king of Israel who would deliver Israel from bondage into an era of freedom, power, influence, and prosperity. Lord implies Jesus' authority and deity. This was a very common title used for God in the Old Testament. It implies both His absolute authority and His deity. In the New Testament, this is the most often used title for Jesus as well, emphasizing His deity and authority.