Sermon Notes – 12.21.2025 – Jesus "Born to you, a Savior"

Matthew 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came **together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit**. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; **for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit**. 21 "She will bear a Son; and **you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins**." 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "**BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL**," which translated means, **"GOD WITH US."** 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Was This Too Wonderful to Believe – That the Holy Spirit Would Bring the Messiah in This Way?

Joseph and the people had been taught that the Spirit of God had "moved on the surface of the water" in creation; Had filled Bezalel and Hur to create the holy things for the Sanctuary in the wilderness; He overcame even Balaam to cause him to prophesy good concerning Israel; had "come upon Saul the son of Kish to make him a changed man; had come upon the servants of King Saul and on King Saul himself to prevent them from taking David; He came upon Azariah the son of Oded to deliver God's message to Asa King of Judah, " the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him;" He came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest to expose King Joash's treachery; Even Job testified that the Spirit of God had made him; and He came upon Ezekiel and brought him in a vision to the exiles in Chaldea. And further, and this is just an opinion…an informed opinion…but, John the Baptist was going to come in the spirit and power of Elijah, to prepare the Way of the Lord before Jesus – I believe that the spirit of Elijah was the Spirit of Almighty God: the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that the Angel testified was going to bring about the Holy Birth – Emanuel – God With Us!

All the Things God Sets in Order in Accomplishing His Will

Luke 2:1-21 **Now in those days** a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. 2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and **was with child**. 6 **While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth**. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Sitting in a Stable, Surrounded by Farm Animals & Their Baby Wrapped Up, Lying in a Feed Trough, I can Imagine Joseph and Mary Deeply Questioning What the Angel Said…Until the Shepherds Showed Up with Their Story About the Angel s

8 **In the same region there were *some* shepherds** staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And **an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone**

around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 **for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** 12 "This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And **suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."** 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another**, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us**." 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 When they had seen this, **they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child**. 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But **Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.** 20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them. 21 And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

God's Plan Was Unfolding Perfectly: I believe They Were Starting to Find New Meaning in the Words of the Prophet Isaiah – "My Ways Are Not Your Ways"

Isaiah 55:6-11 Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. 8 "**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.** 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 **So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.**

Soon, At the Temple, Joseph and Mary Would be Amazed and Mary Would be Given Much to Ponder

Luke 2:25-38 "…**Simeon**; (who was) righteous and devout,…came in the Spirit into the temple; … took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel." 33 And **His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.**

Then Anna 36 …a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. 38 At that very moment she came up and ***began*** **giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

Think About All that the Holy Spirit Was Doing to Bring God's Indescribable gift – Our Savior!

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!