

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of December 21, 2025**

### **"Birth of Jesus"**

#### **TAX DECREE**

**Sunday .....Read Luke 2:1-3**

*"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed."* Little did the Roman emperor realize that he was being used by Almighty God to accomplish His divine purposes. The birth of the most important person that would ever be born was going to occur during his reign as emperor. That person would be the Son of God, the Savior of the world, and eventually the King over the whole earth. God used the prophet Micah centuries before the birth of Jesus to announce that He would be born in Bethlehem in Micah 5:2: *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* That was no problem for God who rules the earth. He had the Roman emperor issue a tax-decree that forced Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem where they were registered.

#### **RULING AUTHORITY**

**Monday .....Read Exodus 12:1-6**

*"And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt saying."* Without their realizing it, governing authorities around the world can be overruled by God at any time. That is not to say rulers are doing the will of God during their reign as the leaders of the government. It does mean that our sovereign God can overrule at any time and in any way He chooses. Think how many times governments were forced to deal with problems caused by nature. God, as mentioned in the Constitution of the United States, is the Ruler of Nature. As creator of the universe, God chooses when He wants to send rain or snow.

#### **LOYAL CITIZENS**

**Tuesday .....Read Luke 2:4-5**

*"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David."* When it was time for Mary to deliver her baby, she and Joseph had to take a long journey to obey the government decree on taxation. It was not the most opportune time for a woman ready to deliver a child to take a trip. But, it had to be! Actually it was an act of God. God had to get Mary to Bethlehem to protect the integrity of that which was mentioned in the prophecy in Micah 5:2: *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is*

*to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* God is indeed the Supreme Ruler!

### **NEW BORN BABY**

**Wednesday ..... Read Matthew 2:1-5**

*"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."* God chose to send the Savior of the world as a baby. Jesus would experience an infancy, a childhood, a teenage life and then as an adult. He knows the trials and temptations of all people, no matter the age. To be the Lord of the universe and the Great Shepherd, He could say, "I know what you are going through. He was there!

### **THE MANGER**

**Thursday ..... Read Luke 2:6-7**

*"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."* How amazing it is that the most important baby ever was delivered in a barn and placed in a manger. Does that not tell us something about humility. The King of kings could have been born in a palace with all of the amenities, but God chose a barn and a manger. Obviously, one of the chief personality traits of the followers of Jesus should be humility. Our home is in heaven; while on earth, our mission is to be just as the shepherds, witnesses for Jesus!

### **SHEPHERDS**

**Friday ..... Read Luke 2:8**

*" And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."* The first witnesses to the birth of Jesus were shepherds abiding in the fields. It is very interesting that God chose humble shepherds to proclaim the most important message in the world that a Savior was born. As soon as they heard about the birth of Jesus, they immediately went. The sheep would have to wait; they wanted to see the baby Jesus. After that great experience of meeting Jesus, they were on a mission to tell the world!

### **ANGELS**

**Saturday ..... Read Luke 2:9-11**

*"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."* Throughout the days of the Old Testament and up until the birth of Jesus, angels were the chief messengers of

God. In the Church Age believers have the written Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit as God's message and guide, Christians are the messengers God is using to get His message to the world. That is the truth of Mark 16:15: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Christians today benefit from the ministry of angels, we read this truth in Psalm 19:11 *"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."*