
God's Providence & Humility

Luke 2:1-7

Now it happened that in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus for a census to be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was going to be registered for the census, each to his own city.

And 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, in order to register along with Mary, who was betrothed to him, and was with child.

Now it happened that while they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

Luke 1:67-75

God's Providence

- Sovereignty vs. Providence
 - God's *right* to do all that He wills, but doesn't express any design or goal
 - The *act* of God purposefully providing for, or sustaining and governing, the world
- "*Pro—vide*": forward, on behalf of; to see
 - "To supply what is needed; to give sustenance or support
 - God "sees to it" (Genesis 22)

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Luke 1:67-75

God's Providence

- Over the “world”
 - Caesar Augustus & the Roman Empire
 - “Venerable; great; divine; son of god”
 - The expanse of the empire
- Fulfilling prophecy
- God's Word uses contrast



This map illustrates the Roman Empire at its greatest extent and in AD 117. The Emperor Trajan completed the most recent conquests, but many of the new provinces (in Mesopotamia, for example) were abandoned after his death and others (as Dacia – Romania) a century later.

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Luke 1:67-75

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Micah 5:2

“And your house and your kingship shall be made firm forever before me;
your throne will remain established forever.”

2 Samuel 7:16

God's Providence

- Over the “world”
 - Caesar Augustus & the Roman Empire
- Over a nation
 - The remnant of Israel
- Over the individual
 - Joseph, Mary, & Jesus

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Luke 1:67-75



God's providence still presides
over the world, the nations, and
the people.

God's Humility

- Over the “world”
- Over a nation
- Over the individual

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Luke 1:67-75

God's humility changes the world,
the nations, and the people.

