

The Lord Over History Enters Into It

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 2:1-7

→ “And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (vv. 6-7).



Big Idea

God sovereignly engineers circumstances for for the good of His people and the upholding of His word. The coming of His Son, with the gospel vouchsafed therein, was none other than the pinnacle of such activity.

(1) The Lord *over* History (vv. 1-5)

What amazes me about how God fulfills the prophecy made of His Son in Micah 5:1-3 is the sheer earthiness of it all, the seemingly natural means God uses to accomplish such supernatural ends. A census, most likely for the purpose of taxation. An Emperor's greed. Such mundane affairs get the family to the city of David so that the promised Son of David can be born. As one commentator observes: “The accidental events of history have become acts of destiny” (Bock, BECNT, p. 203). What seems ordinary, happenstance, accidental, had behind and beneath it the very hand of God!

One of the chief secrets of the Christian life, it seems to me, is learning to see His hand behind and beneath everything that comes at us. The moment we think that things come at us randomly and without purpose, we lose the very essence of faith. But when we believe that everything comes to us from God with good purpose, we are ready to respond with hope and love. We are ready to look for His hand, His fingerprints on everything.

(2) The Lord *In* History (vv. 6-7)

The burning question that emerges at this point is: If God could so order history to put Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth, why in the world would He then order the rest of it in this way? Why would He bring such a magnificent king (prophesied from of old) into the world in such a humble, unbecoming way (in a manger, in a stable)? What is the Lord of heaven and earth, doing sleeping with the animals?!

In vv. 6-7 we have the gospel in miniature, in capsule form. The end of His life is here foreshadowed at the beginning. The hard fact of the matter is that this is actually as good as it will get for Him. For His poverty, obscurity, and rejection would only grow more pointed as His life goes on.

“What has not been assumed has not been healed.” But Christ has assumed humanity, “being born in the likeness of men.” And He has brought healing to our race fallen in Adam. Because He suffered under the wrath of God in my place. And He rose victorious over Satan, sin, and death, offering eternal life freely to all who would repent and believe.



Critical Action

Is the Lord over history the Lord in you?

Reflection Questions

- What Biblical texts has God used to comfort you with the fact that He is in control even of the hard circumstances in your life? Explain.
- Read 2 Chr 36:22-23. What is happening here? How does it relate to what we unpacked in Luk 2:1-7? How does this speak into your life?
- How does the incarnation imply that God is the only true “Christian”? Read Rom 10:2-4 again. What does this mean? How would your life change if you more fully embraced it?

