

## Sermon Notes

### *Insights from Luke*

#4 – “An Inglorious Greeting for a Glorious King” – Luke 2:1-7

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Death and taxes

1. Two certainties of life and apparent throughout human history.
2. Experience of the ancient Roman Empire

##### B. The Caesar

1. Octavius’ rise to power.
2. The Caesar at the time of Jesus’ birth – Luke 2:1-3
3. He achieved three things.
  - a. Pax Romana – peace
  - b. Road system
  - c. Encouraged the use of a universal language – Greek

#### II. Exposition

##### A. Luke 2:1-3

1. “In those days”
  - a. Herod was in power.
  - b. Roman occupation and hated for these reasons.
    1. Gentiles were unclean
      - a. Acts 10:28
    2. Blatant idolatry
    3. Oppressive taxation
  - c. “Census taken of all the inhabited world”
    1. Roman Empire
    2. Higher critical attacks about historical accuracy.
      - a. Note Luke 2:2 and Acts 5:37
      - b. Luke understood this census to be the first.

##### d. “Each to His own city”

1. Joseph may have owned property in Bethlehem.

##### B. Luke 2:4-5

1. Joseph and Mary’s travel
2. Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
  - a. The kingly line and home place.
    1. II Samuel 5:7-9:1; I Chronicles 11:7

##### C. Luke 2:6-7

1. “Laid in a manger”
2. Not necessarily a stable.
  - a. A manger is a feeding trough.
3. “No room in the inn.” Not the typical word for an inn.  
It may have been a public shelter, camp ground or cave.

#### III. Points for Reflection

##### A. While He deserved a royal baby’s room, He came into the world in a barn.

1. He deserved worship and a kingly welcome, but his birthplace was one of obscurity.
2. Think of the humility – Kent Hughes.
3. “Silent Night” or “Labor of Love”

##### B. Consider the reasons for Jesus’ lowly entrance.

It teaches us three things.

1. The depravity of our sin.
2. The humanity of our Savior.
3. The humility of our Savior.