

“God’s Will & Timing On Earth As It Is In Heaven!”

Luke 2:1-7

Notice Luke Tells Us **5x** in **5 Verses** About The **Census**

1) “And it came to pass in those days that a **decree** went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be **registered**.” Luke 2:1

2) “This **census** first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.” Luke 2:2

3) “So, all went to be **registered**, everyone to his own city.” Luke 2:3

4) “Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be **registered** with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.” Luke 2:4-5

Q: “Why Such An Emphasis On A Census?”

A: Luke Heightens The Anticipation That A Great Change In Our Relationship With God & The World Is Coming

A: Luke Alludes That The Census Appears To Be The Will Of Evil Forces Backing Rome & Caesar Augustus; While It Is Actually The Fulfillment Of The Plan & Will Of God Made Before The Creation Of The World

Old Testament Prophecies Come To Life In Light Of The Law & Census Decree

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me, the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth is from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2 (NASB)

“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a Son, & you shall call His Name Emmanuel (which means) God forever with us!” Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

New Testament Prophecies Come To Life In Light Of The Law & Census Decree

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law!” Galatians 4:4 (NASB)

Q: “Why Else Put Such An Emphasis On A Census?”

A: To Provide A Divine Plan & Timeline Woven Into History For The Coming Of God To Earth!

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered!”

This set of verses recorded by Luke surrounding the census of the day has caused more confusion & misunderstanding than almost any recorded in the Bible. These verses have been used as an excuse by the modern world to deny the veracity of Luke’s historical claims about the birth of Jesus, & therefore, the divinity of Christ! Let’s take a detailed look now at the times surrounding Jesus’ Birth more closely and see what Luke actually wrote & what actually happened in those days leading up to that First Christmas Day so long ago.

Q: “Who Was Caesar Augustus?”

Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar’s Real Name - Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus. He ruled 27 B.C. until 14 A.D. He was adopted nephew of Julius Caesar who was his predecessor. Augustus declared that he was a god come down to earth from heaven to bring the world a lasting peace which he called, **“The Pax Romana”**. This Supposed everlasting peace actually lasted 200 years from 20 B.C. through 180 A.D. He ordered several smaller censuses during his reign, but this particular census in 3 B.C. was Empire Wide & it brought Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem.

Q: “Who Did Caesar Augustus Think He Was?”

“Divine Augustus Caesar, son of a god, imperator of the land & the sea, the great benefactor & savior of the whole world, who brings us a divine & everlasting peace!” **Caesar Augustus**

Ironically, everything he wrote about himself was true of another baby about to be born. For God was bringing a true & everlasting peace between Himself & all of us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the True Ruler of Heaven & Earth, & the True Savior of the World. **The Prophet Isaiah reminds us of this:**

Ironically At The Same Time In History

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; & the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, & Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government & peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David & over His kingdom, to order it & establish it with judgment & justice from that time forward, even forevermore! The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this!” **Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)**

Notice Luke’s Wording Considering The Other Important Actor

“This census **first took place** while **Quirinius was governing** Syria.”

Notice

The bible does not say that he was the **governor**; it says instead he was **governing**.

Notice

The Bible Also Mentions “first took place” Concerning The Census & Quirinius

Many scholars have also been baffled about the timing of this particular census & its historicity.

Many modern sources on the internet especially are unaware that about 10 years ago information from archeology linking Caesar Augustus & the rule of the local Palestine/Syrian Quirinius actually came to light.

In Greek the exact wording here in the earliest manuscripts uses the word, **ἡγεμονευοντους** transliterated to English is the verb: **hegemoneuontus** meaning **“to rule / to govern”**.

Whereas the noun: **ἡγεμον** transliterated into English as **hegemon** means **“governor”**.

Notice

Luke chooses another Greek word, **απριורי** for the census which transliterated to English is **apriori** meaning, **“The very first time something happens”** to modify the governorship of **Quirinius!**

Further, Luke uses another Greek word, **πρωτη** transliterated in English as **prote** meaning, **“important or first”** to modify the **census**.

So, it turns out that Quirinius was actually governing this part of the world two different times. A new Steele, a small obelisk structure found in many archaeological digs was recently uncovered in Antioch indicating two dates of his governorship, one as co-governing (co-reagent) authority under the son of Caesar Augustus & another time as the sole governor or reagent by himself.

These two reigns were interrupted with a hiatus of other duties & appointments.

Q: “Who Was Publius Sulpicius Quirinius?”

Birth – 51 A.D.

1st Proconsul To Caesar Augustus 12 B.C. – 7 B.C.

1st Time Reign Governor Quirinius Co-Reagent of Palestine 7 B.C. – 3 B.C.

2nd Time Reign Governor Quirinius Sole Reagent of Palestine 6 A.D. – 12 A.D.

2nd Proconsul To Caesar Augustus 12 A.D. – 14 A.D.

Death – 21 A.D.

Similar Language of Luke's Gospel Concerning Censuses

"From the Prefect of Egypt, Gaius Vibius Maximus. Being that the time has come for the house to house census, it is mandatory that all men who are living outside of their districts return to their own homelands, that the census may be carried out . . ." **Census 104 A.D.**

"I Thermoutharion along with Apollonius, my guardian, pledge an oath to Tiberius Claudius Caesar that the preceding document gives an accurate account of those returning, who live in my household, & that there is no one else living with me, neither a foreigner, nor an Alexandrian, nor a freedman, nor a Roman citizen, nor an Egyptian. If I am telling the truth, may it be well with me, but if falsely, the reverse. In the ninth year of the reign of Tiberius Claudius Augustus Germanicus Emperor." **Census 48 A.D.**

It is interesting to note that these two census accounts required a person to return to their homeland to be registered. The same is true of the gospel account.

Further, Augustus put his son & heir in the charge of his closest friend, Quirinius:

Other Extra-Biblical Writings Concerning Quirinius' Life

1) Records also indicate that **Quirinius** was a major figure in Roman politics. His name is mentioned in "Res Gestae" (The Deeds of Augustus) in his appointment to proconsul in 12 B.C.

2) The Roman Historian Tacitus also mentions that **Quirinius** was appointed by Augustus to be an advisor to his young son Caius Caesar in Armenia well before the second census of 6 A.D.

3) Caius Caesar was sent by his father, Augustus to be the reagent administrator of Syria in 1 A.D. & was wounded in nearby Armenia in 3 A.D. Evidently, Augustus wanted someone who was experienced in previously administering the region to advise his son. Who better than **Quirinius**?

4) The Roman Historian Tertullian also recorded that Gaius Sentius Saturninus was governor of Syria from 9 B.C. to 7 B.C. just before the co-regency of **Quirinius** & **Caius Caesar**.

5) But recently, confirmation that **Quirinius** was in Syria during the first Roman census taken between 7 B.C. & 3 B.C. has been found were he acted as a co-reagent or in a proconsulate role.

6) The first century Historian Josephus also mentions that **Quirinius** became governor again a second time later on in 6 A.D. "**Quirinius**, a Roman senator who had gone through other magistracies, & had passed through them all until he had become Proconsul, was appointed governor of Syria by Caesar & was given the task of assessing property there and in Judea."

Concerning The Reign Of Augustus & Herod The Great

Q: "So When Did King Herod the Great Reign Over Judea & Israel?"

A: Fall 37 B.C. – Spring 3 B.C.

Concerning The Date Of The Roman Census

Q: "So When Did Joseph & Mary Go To Bethlehem For Jesus To Be Born?"

A: The Census Was Held In 3 B.C.

A: Jesus Could Not Have Born In 1 A.D. As Our Modern Calendar Currently Suggests

Concerning The Creation Of Our Calendar

Q: "So What's Up With Our Modern Calendar?"

A: Abbot Dionysius Exiguus Created Our Calendar Around 523 A.D.

Unfortunately, Dionysius Made At Least One Significant Error In His Calendar Calculations

He Accepted The Statement Of Clement Of Alexandria That Jesus Was Born In The 28th Year Of The Reign Of The Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus. But Dionysius Failed To Realize That During The First Four Years Of Caesar Augustus' Reign He Was Known By His Original Birth Name, "**Octavianus**". After Which The Roman Senate Proclaimed Him "**Augustus**".

This Mistake Accounts For The Loss Of Four Years, But By The Time It Was Realized Our Modern Calendar Was Too Entrenched To Be Changed. This Mistake Was Combined With His Jump From 1 B.C. Directly To 1 A.D. With No Zero Date Between. This Means That The Birth Of Jesus Christ "**Anno Domini**" Is 3 B.C. Using Our Current Modern Calendar.

Q: "*Am I Able To Rest Secure This Morning Knowing That God Has Everything Worked Out In His Plan For This World & Especially For Me?*"

A: I Must Always Remember That God's Plan & God's Will Are Perfect In Their Design, In Their Fulfillment & In Their Timing!

Now that the controversy is laid to rest & the record of history of the Birth of Jesus Christ is just as Luke recorded it, we come to the most important part. The Prophetic Part of Luke's Gospel Message!

Prophetic Part Of Luke's Gospel Message

"So, it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, & wrapped Him in swaddling bands, & laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn!" **Luke 2:6-7 (NKJV)**

- 1) Unknowingly, Mary Being A Poor Woman With Not Much With Her On A Long Trip Used What Was Available In Abundance In Bethlehem.
- 2) She Wrapped Him In The Swaddling Bands Of Cloth Used By Local Shepherds To Wrap Their Unblemished 1st Born Rams Of Their Flocks.
- 3) They Did This So These Lambs Could Be Used As Paschal Passover Lambs In Jerusalem.
- 4) The Shepherds Kept The Rams From Scratching & Hurting Themselves With Their Hooves By The Wraps While They Were Very Young.
- 5) This Insured They Would Remain Perfect Without Blemish To Be Used As Sacrificial Lambs. Further They Kept The Lambs In Small Stables In The Many Small Caves Surrounding The Hills Around The Town Of Bethlehem.
- 6) When There Was No More Room For Them In The Inn, Mary Took Theses Swaddling Bands Lying In The Stable & Wrapped Her Son, "**The Lamb Of God Who Takes Away The Sin Of The World**"!
- 7) She Then Laid Him In A Manger So The Same Poor Shepherds Could Come & Worship The Son Of God Told To Them By The Angels.

Q: "*Am I Truly Thankful Like The Shepherds For My Heavenly Father's Perfect Love For Me In The Gift Of His Only Son?*"

*"Let Us Remember This Christmas Season To Tell Jesus
How Much We Love Him & How Thankful We Are For Him!"*