

Contrasting The Accounts of The Lord's Birth

LK. 2:1-12

INTRODUCTION

The accounts of the birth of the Lord is found in the writings of two different gospel writers. Each writer is writing to a different audience to emphasize different things. Matthew's emphasis is upon the birth of a king. Dr. Luke's emphasis is upon the birth of a Saviour. Making a distinction between these two accounts is important to understand the consistency of God's plan and purposes that spring from His decree.

- I. BOTH ACCOUNTS INVOLVES THE USE OF AN ANGEL MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE BIRTH.
 - A. An angel appeared to shepherds to announce the birth. Luke 2:9, 14

 - B. An angel appeared to Joseph to announce the pregnancy to Mary. Matt. 2:13

- II. THE AUDIENCE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE LORD'S BIRTH DIFFERED FROM MATTHEW TO LUKE.
 - A. Shepherds were the focus Dr. Luke's account. Lk. 2:8

 - B. Joseph was the focus of Matthew's account. Matt. 2:13

 - C. The wise men were a focus of Matthew's account. Matt. 2:1
 1. The wise men were gentiles who had a history of sorcery.
 - a) *Reinecker describes them as **Babylonian priests or wise men who were acquainted with the interpretation of stars and dreams as well as with other things.***
 - b) *Wilson describes them as **men in early ages of the world portending to profound learning.***
 - c) *"**The Jews believed that there were prophets in the kingdom of Saba and Arabia, who were of the posterity of Abraham by Keturah; and that they taught in the name of God, what they had received in tradition from the mouth of Abraham.**" - Whitby. **That many Jews were mixed with this people there is little doubt; and that these eastern magi, or philosophers, astrologers, or whatever else they were, might have been originally of that class, there is room to believe. These, knowing the promise of the Messiah, were now, probably, like other believing Jews, waiting for the consolation of Israel.**" -- Adam Clarke Commentary*

2. The wise men were prominent in Scripture, always in a negative sense.
 - a) The men who opposed Moses were *wise men*. Ex. 7:11,22
 - b) Nebuchadnezzar's wise men were unable to interpret his dream. Dan. 2:27; 4:7

III. THE LOCATION OF THE CHILD DIFFERS FROM THE MATTHEW AND LUKE ACCOUNTS.

- A. The shepherds found the baby in a manger that same day. Lk. 2:15-16
 1. The angel gave the shepherds a sign that points to proof of what they had announce. Lk. 2:12
 2. The sign for the shepherds was the babe lying in a manger. Vs. 12
- B. Matthew records that the wise men found the Lord in a house, approximately two years from the time they saw the star.. Matt. 2:11

IV. THE REASONS FOR THE LORD'S BIRTH DIFFERS FROM THE MATTHEW ACCOUNT TO LUKE'S.

- A. Matthew presents His birth as the One born to be king of the Jews. Matt. 2:1-2
- B. Luke presents His birth as the One born to be a Saviour. Lk. 2:12
 1. A Saviour to rescue Israel from their enemies. Lk. 1:47; Acts 13:23
 2. A Saviour to rescue the Gentiles from eternal punishment. John 4:42; 1st Tim. 4:10

CONCLUSION