

The Politics of Christmas (Luke 2:1-5)

Introduction: “Talk about anything, except religion & politics...”

I. WHO IS THE FIRST PERSON MENTIONED IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

- A. The Roman emperor (Caesar Augustus) was 1500 miles away
- B. His political decision was a part of God’s “*Fullness of time*” (Galatians 4:4)

II. WHY DID MARY & JOSEPH HAVE TO TRAVEL 80 MILES FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM?

- A. Imagine 9 month pregnant Mary on that donkey...
- B. They had to go to their “ancestral home” (Luke 2:3; Matthew 1:1, 16-21)

III. LET’S GET TO KNOW CAESAR BETTER...

- A. He ruled for 44 years & was a great builder
- B. He was called *Pontifex Maximus* (the highest priest)
- C. He had a problem: too many bachelors in the empire!
- D. New laws against bachelors were put into effect having to do with sex, taxes, and sporting events
- E. His “census decree” (Luke 2:1) was ranked #8 in the *35 Acts of Caesar Augustus* {Perhaps the census was done to see if the laws against bachelors worked}

IV. LET US NOW SEE HOW GOD USED POLITICS FOR HIS PURPOSES

- A. Luke 2:1-5 fulfils the Old Testament prophecy of Micah 5:2
- B. This illustrates the truth of Genesis 50:20 & Romans 8:28

Conclusion: What does this mean for you personally?