



the Crib, the Cross, the Cave – BUT WHY?

-a study in the 3 major events of Jesus' life from the Book of Luke-

Leading into Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we will take a fresh look at the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ from the book of Luke. This "gospel" account is written by the same author of the book of Acts, and both show him to be a highly educated man, who wrote from a Greek background. He tells us why he wrote this gospel in the first 4 verses (1:1-4) and some feel Luke is the fullest, most orderly story of Jesus' life. (Assignment: Read 2 chapters a day)

"**The Crib**" is normally reserved for a December message, but reminders are good anytime since the world has never been the same since the baby Jesus arrived and was laid in a "crib." It's the beginning of the "Gospel", the "Good News" or the "Greatest Story Ever Told." **The crib, the cross, the cave** – are the three main components which together comprise the total story of man's hope and redemption. So today, Jesus came to the world to be laid in a crib of wood and hay in the most obscure and unassuming birth ever known to one who would become the Messiah! **WHY?**

1. GOD CHOSE THIS WAY TO SHOW:

• JESUS TO BE THE _____

Luke 2:1-7 – Joseph, Mary, a "lowly" birth, but a real baby in the flesh!

John 3:13 – "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man."

Compare the vision of Daniel and Revelation of John – *Daniel 7:9-14; Revelation 1:9-18*

• JESUS TO BE THE _____

Luke 1:26-35 – it was a miraculous birth that could only come about by the power of an Almighty God!

John 1:1 – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14 – "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 8:58 – "Jesus said, 'Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I am!' They picked up stones..."

• JESUS TO BE THE _____

He came as a shepherd seeking a lost sheep – Luke 15:3-7

He came as a woman seeking a lost coin – Luke 15:8-10

He came as a father seeking a lost son – Luke 15:11-32

He came to serve, not to be served – Matthew 20:25-28

• JESUS TO BE THE _____

Luke 19:10 – "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke 2:11 – "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

John 6:38-40 – "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day"

2. WHY AND HOW SHOULD WE _____ TO THE ONE WHO CAME IN A CRIB?

- In time, some would scoff at his background (not a scholar, not a Pharisee, came from Nazareth, Galilee)
- But note the responses of three after his birth:
 - *Luke 2:8-20* _____
 - *Luke 2:22-35* _____
 - *Luke 2:26-40* _____