

Declaring God's Glory

Luke 2:1-7

Within the Gospel of Luke we find the familiar story of the birth of Jesus Christ. In each of its varying scenes we see and hear the declaration of God's glory both by supernatural beings as well as human beings. Into this simple and delicate narrative Luke weaves deep and profound theological meaning. Last week we considered the theological "summit" of the Incarnation and the favor of God we experience when Jesus Christ is born in our hearts. This week we will attempt to scale another theological "summit" as we consider Mary's "*first-born*" Son. We celebrate the occasion of Mary's first-born as the supreme event in history, the central act of God for the redemption of Mankind. We must detach ourselves from the local and the historical and see this birth of God's first-born as the incredible demonstration of God's glory that it is... timeless, eternal, and far reaching in both scope and impact. As we consider Jesus Christ, God's "*first-born*", we begin to realize and better understand the love of God for His Creation and His desire for His redeemed sons and daughters.

Jesus Christ... God's First-Born...

(1) Jesus . . . Mary's 'first-born' Luke 2:7

(2) Jesus . . . 'first-born' of all creation Colossians 1:15

(3) Jesus . . . 'first-born' from the dead Colossians 1:18

*(4) Jesus . . . 'first-born' among many brethren
Romans 8:29*