

JESUS CAME TO RULE OUR LIVES



*BOWED BEFORE THE THRONE
OF GOD IS WHERE WE FIND THE
CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS.*

1. Jesus was born a Ruler who would shepherd God's people, Matthew 2:1-6.

- (Matthew 2:1-6 ESV) Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: 6 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; **for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.**' "

2. Jesus would rise up to shepherd the flock in the strength and majesty of the LORD, Micah 5:2-5.

- (Micah 5:2-5a ESV) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, **from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.** 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 **And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the**

majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.

A. He was born to rule in Israel.

B. He came with the purpose of rising up and shepherding the flock of God.

C. Because of Shepherd-King's rule in the strength and majesty of the LORD his people will live securely.

D. Because of Shepherd-King's rule in the strength and majesty of the LORD he shall be the peace of his sheep.

E. Emphasis: The Shepherd-King's peace comes through his rule over us and shepherding of us.

- (John 14:27 ESV) Peace I leave with you; **my peace I give to you.** **Not as the world gives do I give to you.** Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.
- (Colossians 3:15 ESV) **And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

3. Sovereign Lord Yahweh has declared the nature and intent of his shepherding, Ezekiel 34:11-16.

- (Ezekiel 34:11-16 ESV) For thus says the Lord GOD: **Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.** 12 **As a shepherd seeks out his flock** when he is among his

sheep that have been scattered, **so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered** on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and **gather them** from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. **And I will feed them** on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 **I will feed them** with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 **I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep**, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 **I will seek the lost**, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

A. God has determined that we should be fully aware of who he is and what that means in regard to his care for his sheep.

B. Declare is an excellent word to describe the Lord's intent as he gives us an official statement as to the firm, active nature of his shepherding.

Declare means to state emphatically and authoritatively; to announce something clearly, firmly, publicly, officially; to say something in a solemn and emphatic manner. Our Sovereign Lord wants us to be strengthened and comforted in knowing his commitment as Shepherd of the flock of God. He gives us a clear statement so that we know what to expect of him.

C. Being born as a babe in Bethlehem Jesus Son of God stepped into time to search for his sheep who are lost and alone in the universe, 34:11-12.

- (Luke 19:10 ESV) For the Son of Man **came to seek and to save the lost**.

D. These sheep were without hope and without God in the world before Christ intervened.

- (Ephesians 2:12-13 ESV) **Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ ... having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far**

off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

E. Taking on human flesh Jesus Son of God could now gather all his sheep throughout the entire history of Earth to shepherd them for all eternity, 34:13.

- (Ephesians 1:3-4a ESV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 **even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- (1 Peter 1:1-2a ESV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, **To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion** in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 **according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.**

F. God himself is the Shepherd of the sheep, 34:15.

- (Psalm 23:1 ESV) The Lord is my shepherd.

4. Sovereign Lord Yahweh will tend his flock like a shepherd, Isaiah 40:9-11.

- (Isaiah 40:9-12 ESV) Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "**Behold your God!**" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 **He will tend his flock like a shepherd**; he will **gather** the lambs in his arms; he will **carry** them in his bosom, and **gently lead** those that are with young.
- (John 10:11 ESV) **I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- (John 10:14 ESV) I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me.**
- (John 10:26-30 ESV) But you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 **My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, **and they follow me.**