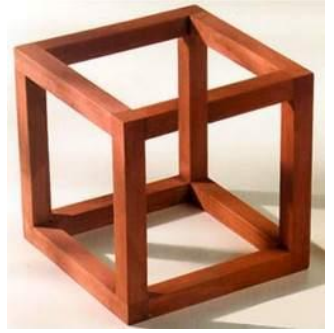


6 - Prince of Paradox

The Baby and His Birth - 12/12/2010 - Jim Johnson

There are a whole series of paradoxical events in the Second chapter of Luke that contradict what we think ought to be. They are grouped around three topics.



THE CENSUS – Luke 2:1-6

1. While God issued a decree resulting in the creation of man, Caesar issued a decree resulting in the _____ of man.
2. God disciplined King David for his census, and yet it was a census that _____ us the Son of David.
3. Caesar numbered the whole world, while Christ would _____ for the whole world.
4. The census required folks to head for home, yet Christ was _____ home.

The overall message: **The census was there to inform us of what Christ _____ to do.** Mankind was being counted. Each one had fallen short of the glory of God and was in need of a Savior.

THE ANGELS – Luke 2:8-12

1. The glory of the Lord surrounded the angel but was _____ from the babe.
2. As Pre-Incarnate God, the angels attended Him. At his birth they _____.
3. As God, the angels assisted Him, as God Incarnate He was on His _____.

The overall message: **The angels were there to remind us of what Christ left _____.**
The change in their role seemed to underscore the fact that Christ had left the halls of glory and entered into the realm of man.

THE SHEPHERDS – Luke 2:8-12

1. Christ the _____ was born in the midst of shepherds.
2. Shepherds were typically the last to know and yet the _____ to hear the news of Christ.
3. The despised shepherds were _____ while the important were ignored.
4. The Lamb of God was born among the sheep destined for _____.
5. The shepherds were invited to look upon the one who could not be _____.
6. The nightshift was privileged to see the _____ of the world.

The overall message: **The shepherds were there to remind us of _____ Christ came to save.**

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Why do you suppose God chose to use so much paradox in the advent story?
2. Which paradox speaks most deeply to you and why?
3. Think through the advent story in the Gospel of Matthew. Look for paradoxes there.