

Luke 2:1-5

1. The World was IN A STATE OF UPHEAVAL

Luke 2:1-5

Psalm 115:1-13

"Without question, 6 BC was a lousy time to live in Judea. Herod the Great had seized the throne of Israel through bloody intrigue and with political support of Rome. Then, once in power, he guarded his stolen title, "King of the Jews," so ruthlessly he even put his own sons to death when any of them posed a significant political threat. Macrobius, a fifth century writer, recorded, "When Caesar Augustus heard that Herod king of the Jews had ordered boys in Syria under the age of two years to be put to death and that the King's son was among those killed, he said, "I'd rater be Herod's pig than Herod's son!"

Caesars comment illustrated the sad irony of Israel's condition. Herod, though not really Jewish, pretended to be a good religious Jew by eliminating pork from his diet, but he indulged an insatiable appetite for power. He built a magnificent temple for the God of Israel –an architectural wonder it its day – and gave its administration to one corrupt high priest after another. He taxed the Jews through the temple in keeping with the Old Testament Law and then used the proceeds to break the first commandment, building cities and temples in honor of the emperor and his pantheon of Roman deities."

Chuck Swindoll

2. The World was BUSY WITH HEADLINE NEWS

Luke 2:4-7

Micah 5:2

Matthew 2:1-23

Galatians 4:4-5