

基督降生伯利恆

Christ was born in Bethlehem

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CBCWLA, Pastor Wang

一、美麗的傳說，還是歷史的事實？

- Christ was born in Bethlehem: A beautiful legend, or a historical fact?
- 當那些日子，該撒亞古士督有旨意下來，叫天下人民都報名上冊。這是居里扭作敘利亞巡撫的時候，頭一次行報名上冊的事。眾人各歸各城，報名上冊（路加福音2:1-3）
- In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.
Luke 2:1-2



一份歷史的記載 A historical record

- 為了要消除縱火的謠言，尼祿王歸罪於基督徒，以極其殘忍的方法將他們處死。基督徒的名稱來自於基督，此人已於提比留皇帝在位期間由巡撫彼拉多處死。塔西圖斯，羅馬編年史15.44
- Therefore, in order to destroy this rumor, Nero blamed the Christians and punished them with refined cruelty. Christ, from whom they take their name, was executed by Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius. *Tacitus, the Annals 15.44*

二、聖人的出生，還是上帝的登陸？

- Christ was born in Bethlehem: the birth of a saint, or the landing of the divine?
- 這一切的事成就是要應驗主藉先知所說的話，說：「必有童女懷孕生子；人要稱他的名為以馬內利。」以馬內利繙出來就是「神與我們同在」。（馬太福音1:22-23）
- All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
Matt. 1:22-23



上帝的登陸 The divine landing

- 我們這個世界的土地已經由敵軍佔領。基督信仰說的，就是這位合法的君王怎樣在這土地上登陸。你或許可以說，這位君王喬裝成人類登陸地球，號召我們參與這場偉大的攻擊軍事行動。魯益士，*反璞歸真*
- Enemy-occupied territory—that is what the world is. Christianity is a story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. *C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

我們的宣教士 Our missionaries



The C Family: They are living in Asia, working with house churches to develop church leaders. CBCWLA starts supporting them in 2013.
這家人住在亞洲，與家庭教會合作，培育教會領袖。本教會從2013起支持他們。

我們的宣教士 Our missionaries



The Krueger Family: Dennis and Mary live in Pingdong, Taiwan. They do evangelism through local churches and English classes. CBCWLA will support them starting 2014. 古柏恩夫婦住在台灣屏東，他們透過當地教會和英語班傳福音。本教會將從2014起支持他們。

三、塵世的過客，還是救主的來臨？

- Christ was born in Bethlehem: a traveler passing through, or the coming of the Savior?
- 那天使對他們說：「不要懼怕！我報給你們大喜的信息，是關乎萬民的；因今天在大衛的城裡，為你們生了救主，就是主基督。」（路2:10-11）
- But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” *Luke 2:10-11*



當選之後，教宗 Francis 親自回旅館付帳單

Blessed are the Meek After he was elected Pontiff, Francis returned to his hotel to pay his own bill



謙卑的下降 A humble descending

- 他本有神的形像，不以自己與神同等為強奪的；反倒虛己，取了奴僕的形像，成為人的樣式；既有人的樣子，就自己卑微，存心順服，以至於死，且死在十字架上。
- Who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. *Phil. 2:6-8*

最大的三個神蹟 Three greatest miracles

1. 童女生子 The virgin birth
2. 死裡復活 The resurrection of Christ
3. 神愛罪人 God loves sinners

四、季節的展示，還是永恆的禮物？

- Christ was born in Bethlehem: A seasonal display, or an eternal gift?



Nativity
基督誕生

榮耀歸與至高神 Glory to God in the highest

- 忽然，有一大隊天兵同那天使讚美神說：「在至高之處榮耀歸與神！在地上平安歸與他所喜悅的人！」（路加福音2:13-14）
- Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”
Luke 2:13-14



愛的禮物 A gift of love

- 神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。約翰福音3:16
- 因為罪的工價乃是死，惟有神的恩賜在我們的主基督耶穌裡，乃是永生。羅馬書 6:23
- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*
- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 6:23*