

The Upside Down Birth

Luke 2:1-20

Ben Deaver @ Tallgrass Church Central Gathering on December 16, 2018

Welcome!

Ever wonder why I'm so odd? It's because I was born upside down! That's right. I came out rear end first instead of head first. Anyone know what that's called? I was born breech.

In a very real way, Christmas is when we celebrate another baby who was born upside down...but in a very different and much more important way.

Big Idea: The upside down birth of the King tells us what His Kingdom will be like!

PRAY!!!

Luke 2:1-3 ¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

1 Minute History Lesson

- This is for you history buffs out there...and everyone else too!
- No account of this registration in Roman records. We don't have specific record of this census...except here in Luke. Critics of the Bible use this to try to discredit the Bible.
- However, indication from Egypt that a census was taken about every 14 years, and that a census had been taken shortly after 20 BC.
- Justin Martyr and Tertullian say that this census can be verified in the archives in Rome.
- These archives no longer exist, but the fact that these contemporaries appealed to them suggests they did at the time.
- Tacitus, prominent Roman historian, places Quirinius in the east around this time.
- Span of time between census in 18-15 BC and 7 AD was far longer than usual.
- This registration is part of the 80% of events from this period missing in the fragmentary Roman records.
- I didn't record the chocolate cinnamon chip bread I ate this morning on Instagram. Did that event still happen? Just because record of an event no longer exists doesn't mean it didn't happen.
- Just because the Roman records of this event have been destroyed doesn't mean it didn't happen!
- These critics arguments from silence against the Bible are simply weak.
- No reason to doubt this account!
- Why don't we refer to the Bible to fill in the gaps of historical record? It's ironic that 80% of the Roman records were destroyed but we have this reliable history right here in our hands. The more archaeological discoveries are made, the more the Bible is corroborated as true! The deeper ya dig, the more it's confirmed!

Caesar Augustus was ruling, but God was REALLY in charge, using Caesar's edict to move Mary and Joseph eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem to fulfill His Word.

Luke 2:4-5 ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Here's the path!

God had promised that the Savior would be:

- A human, not an angel—Genesis 3:15; Hebrews 2:16
- A Jew, not a Gentile—Genesis 12:2; Numbers 24:17
- From the tribe of Judah—Genesis 49:10
- From the family of David—2 Samuel 7:12-16
- Born of a virgin—Isaiah 7:14
- In Bethlehem, the city of David—Micah 5:2

Caesar Augustus set the stage for the upside down birth of the eternal King of kings!

Luke 2:6-7 ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

From fiction to fact—Historical inaccuracies of the “traditional” Christmas story:

- I want to disrupt your Christmas understanding and traditions...just a little...and entice you to ponder again who it is we worship on Christmas!
- First, this notion that Joseph and Mary rolled into town right in time to give birth is bogus. The text says, “And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.” They had already been there awhile. They were probably catching up with family but also dealing with the scandal of Mary’s pregnancy.
- Now let’s think how, “...there was no place for them in the inn.”
- What a terrible translation of the word “inn”! Bear with me here kids and adults!
- Inn = Guestroom = Kataluma—Joseph was headed to the town where he was from. There’s no way he just showed up right before Jesus was born and was turned away at an inn and placed in a stable. They would’ve had many family members in Bethlehem. And Joseph was from royal lineage. Any number of people would’ve welcomed them in to their home. And, if there was no room in Bethlehem they would’ve stayed with Zechariah and Elizabeth very nearby. The reality is there was no room for them in the guestroom so they stayed in the room in the house that would’ve kept some animals.
 - See Luke 22:11 ...and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’
 - “Inn” in Luke 10:34b (pandochein) Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.
- Some animals were kept in the home at night to protect them from theft and to provide warmth in the house. This is what’s going on here. Joseph and Mary probably got bumped from the guest room by a higher ranking member of the family.
- A lot of fictional ideas around the Christmas story crept up with *The Protevangelium of James*, a fictional account of Mary’s and Jesus’s birth written much later than the Gospels.
- Since then so many crazy Christmas traditions have popped over the centuries.

Happy Holidays? Our Culture’s Crowded Shelf

- Holiday sermon series we did at New Hope Church in 2013.
- Checkout that shelf! I remember Dave making that slide.
- This all makes for a sanitized version of the Christmas story.

Away in a Manger

- Verse 2: The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes...
- Verse 2: The cattle are mooing, the baby needs changed
The little Lord Jesus, does cry and burp up...
 - Doesn't rhyme but it's probably way more accurate!

Silent Night

- I know there's a cool story about how the song *Silent Night* came about. But the effect of this song is to give us the false idea that the night Jesus was born was silent. Hmm... Was it?
- Assign different roles—animals, crying babies, kids playing, adults talking
- Verse 1: Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright

Perhaps Satan is behind the embellishment of the Christmas story and tradition?!?!

Upton Sinclair (famous American author), *Money Writes!* (1927), p. 23

"Or consider Christmas—could Satan in his most malignant (vengeful) mood have devised a worse combination of graft (corruption) plus bunkum (nonsense) than the system whereby several hundred million people get a billion or so gifts for which they have no use, and some thousands of shop clerks die of exhaustion while selling them, and every other child in the Western world is made ill from overeating—all in the name of the lowly Jesus?"

Remember the Hedonistic vs. Ascetic Venn Diagram!!!

KIDS, you can lead out here!!!!

Shepherd's Field slide: Can anyone guess what this is a picture of? Does this help?

- Luke 2:8** ⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- This is the shepherd's fields looking towards Bethlehem. I took this when I was in Israel in 2016. These are the same fields that the shepherds we're reading about were in!
 - Now, does anyone know what that half mountain is behind there?
 - That's Herodium, built by Herod the Great.
 - **Luke 1:5a** In the days of Herod, king of Judea... That's how the whole Gospel according to Luke begins!
 - Herodium—Herod the Great cut this mountain in half and built a palace to himself in defiance of God.

Merry Christmas, from Herodium!!!

- No one includes Herodium on their Christmas cards.
- Herod the Great knows he's not the real deal. That's why he's so concerned with Jesus.
- Herod slaughters all the children.
 - **Matthew 2:16** Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.
- Jesus was way more likely to be wiped out by Herod the Great back then and there than He is by anyone today. No one can stop the movement Jesus started! If anyone was going to stop it it would have been Herod the Great.
- Jesus begins His life as a refugee because of Herod the Great. This fulfilled Scripture. "Out of Egypt I called my Son!" in Matthew 2:15, quoting Hosea 11:1.

In this very field the Scriptures say...

Luke 2:9 ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were filled with great fear.

Luke 2:10-12 ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Why shepherds?

- Why shepherds? Why not to priests or scribes? Or why not to Herod the Great? Or Caesar Augustus?
- Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them away from the temple for weeks at a time so that they could not be made clean. They weren't permitted to testify in court.
- God doesn't call the rich and mighty; He calls the poor and the lowly.
- **Luke 1:51-52** ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate...
- Herod was way more famous than Jesus during Jesus' time. Now Herod is simply a footnote in the story of Jesus Christ, the King of kings!

Luke 2:13-14 ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

This is the Gospel proclamation for the upside down King of kings!

Herod the Great set the stage for the upside down birth of the King of kings!

Listen to this Gospel proclamation for Caesar Augustus!

Gospel proclamation from a providence of Asia Minor re: Caesar Augustus

“Whereas the Providence which has guided our whole existence and which has shown such care and liberality, has brought our life to the peak of perfection in giving to us Augustus Caesar, whom Providence filled with virtue for the welfare of mankind, and who, being sent to us and to our descendants as a savior, has put an end to war and has set all things in order; and whereas, having become visible... and whereas, finally that the birthday of the god, Caesar Augustus, *has been for the whole world the beginning of the gospel concerning him*, therefore, let all reckon a new era beginning from the date of his birth.” –Richard A. Horsley, *Jesus and Empire*

And then there's Jesus...

Question	Christ Jesus	Caesar Augustus
Path to enthronement?	Strategy and sacrifice	Strategy and war
Character of the Ruler?	Self-giving love Radically different approach to leadership. Philippians 2:5-11 ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.	Self-seeking
Nature of the Kingdom?	Godly Jesus had bigger fish to fry than worldly riches and temporal power. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Open to everyone! Based on giving to the poor.	Worldly taxes, self-centered decrees, worship
Promises made?	Peace, Joy, etc. King Jesus can give true peace to His land. Peace b/w 1) us and God, 2) us and one another, 3) us and the natural world, and 4) us and ourselves. We’re His ambassadors.	Pseudo-peace Caesar Augustus over-promises and under-delivers. Pax Romana
Duration of reign?	Eternity	40 years (27 BC – 14 AD) Pax Romana (27 BC – 180 AD)
Geographical extent of rule?	Universal—Heaven and Earth	Roman Empire—reached a third of the world’s population (70 million)

How will you respond to the Upside Down King?

Somehow these lowly shepherds were ready to respond to the Good News of the upside down King of kings!

Luke 2:15-18 ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:15-18 ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection questions:

1. What do you need to treasure up and ponder this Christmas?
2. Who do you need to tell the Good News of the Kingdom to?
3. How do you need to align with the Good News heading into 2019?

Big Idea: The upside down birth of the King tells us what His Kingdom will be like!

Chopping Block:

December 25th date may have been influenced by the celebration of winter solstice in the pagan calendar set by the emperor Aurelean in AD 274, the day of the birth of the “Unconquerable Sun.”

Stranger Things

https://strangerthings.fandom.com/wiki/The_Upside_Down

The Upside Down is an alternate dimension existing in parallel to the human world. Most, if not all, flora and fauna present in the dimension are linked together in a hive mind controlled by the Mind Flayer, essentially forming an enormous superorganism. A key component of this hive mind was a species of humanoid predators, dubbed Demogorgons, which originated from the dimension.

What can we guess King Jesus’ Kingdom when we think about how He was born?

1. It will extend to “all flesh” (3:6) and include people who are excluded and on the margins for whatever reasons: purity, economic, or ethnic.
2. It will require “a new economy” that excludes the accumulation of wealth to eat, drink, and be merry while others starve. It is based on care for the poor.
3. It will require a different kind of leadership. “The leader is to have no more honor in the community than those who perform the lowliest functions.”
4. It will require a new way of relating to others. It forbids vengeance and is controlled by the love of enemies instead of their subjugation or destruction (6:27-36).

“Good news of great joy that will be for all the people!”

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, DASHER! now, DANCER! now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! on CUPID! on, DONNER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook, when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!

2019 WOTY & Reading Plans!

Jeconiah's offspring...kinda!

Jeremiah 22:24-30

²⁴ “As I live, declares the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off ²⁵ and give you into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

²⁶ I will hurl you and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. ²⁷ But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return.”

²⁸ Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot,
a vessel no one cares for?

Why are he and his children hurled and cast
into a land that they do not know?

²⁹ O land, land, land,
hear the word of the LORD!

³⁰ Thus says the LORD:

“Write this man down as childless,
a man who shall not succeed in his days,
for none of his offspring shall succeed
in sitting on the throne of David
and ruling again in Judah.”

Jeremiah 36:27-31

²⁷ Now after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁸ “Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned. ²⁹ And concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah you shall say, ‘Thus says the LORD, You have burned this scroll, saying, “Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast?”’ ³⁰ Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night. ³¹ And I will punish him and his offspring and his servants for their iniquity. I will bring upon them and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem and upon the people of Judah all the disaster that I have pronounced against them, but they would not hear.”

Difference in Genealogies?

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/why-are-jesus-genealogies-in-matthew-and-luke-different/>

1. Matthew traces Joseph's, Luke traces Mary's
 - a. Matthew focuses on Joseph's dream, Luke focuses on Mary
 - b. However, Luke refers to Joseph as a descendant of David but never refers to Mary in this way
2. One genealogy is physical, one is royal (legal)
3. Joseph had two fathers
 - a. Eusebius held this view
 - b. Levirate marriage—See Deuteronomy 25:5

Kingdom of God:

- **Acts 1:1-3** ¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

- **Acts 28:30-31** ³⁰ He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, ³¹ proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.
- **Luke 4:5-7** ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."
- **Luke 4:17-21** ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
- **Luke 4:42-43** ⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."
- **Luke 6:20** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."
- **Luke 8:1-3** ¹ Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.
- **Luke 9:1-2** ¹ And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, ² and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.
- **Luke 9:11** When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.
- **Luke 10:9-11** ⁹ "Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'"
- **Luke 11:2** And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.
- **Luke 12:31-32** ³¹ "Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. ³² Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."
- **Luke 13:18-21** ¹⁸ He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." ²⁰ And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."
- **Luke 13:29-30** ²⁹ "And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."
- **Luke 17:20-21** ²⁰ Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, ²¹ nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

- **Luke 18:16-17** ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."
- **Luke 18:24-30** ²⁴ Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷ But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." ²⁸ And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." ²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."
- **Luke 22:15-18** ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves." ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
- **Luke 22:28-30** ²⁸ "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."
- **Luke 23:42-43** ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."
- **Luke 23:50-51** ⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.
- **Luke 24:44-48** ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."
- **Acts 1:6-11** ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."