

# The Secular **versus** The Sacred



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- 2) (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
- 3) And everyone went to their own town to register.
- 4) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Luke 2:1-4 NIV



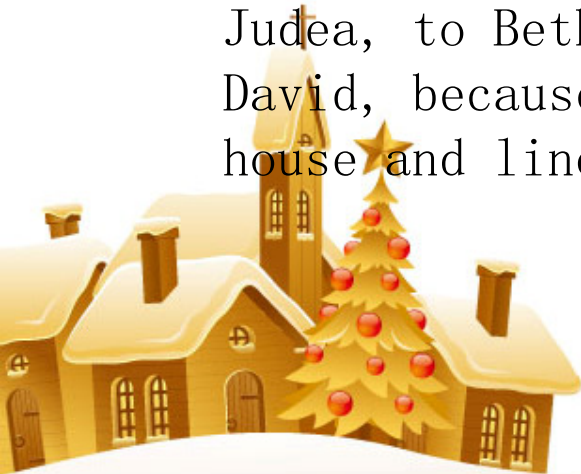
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- What do these four verses tell us about God?

Nothing

Lesson 1  
Hindsight



# The Secular **versus** The Sacred

## God's Sovereignty

- 1) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

## Lesson 2

- God can be working out His plans **unknown** to the secular authorities (Emperor) and equally **unknown** to most of His own people. (*neither side been able to recognise it*)



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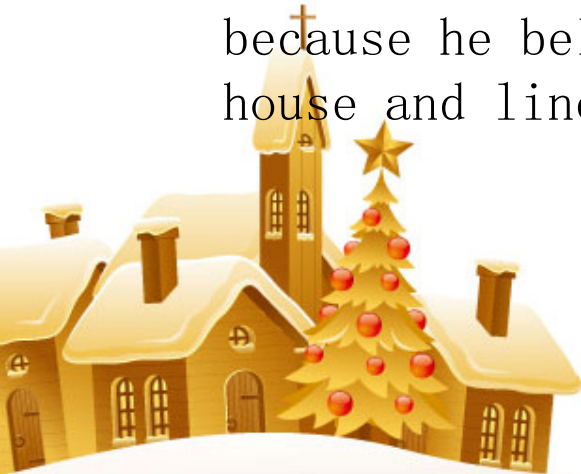
## God's Foreknowledge

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4) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David

## Lesson 3 (a)

- The Emperor issued a decree that places Jesus exactly where He was meant to be born



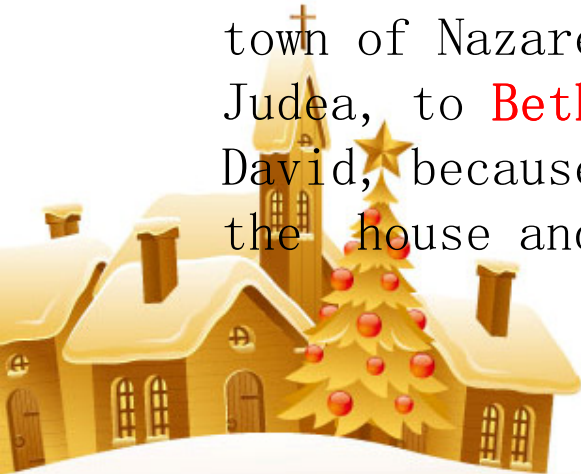
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## God's Foreknowledge

- . "But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." **Micah 5: 2 NIV**
- 4) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to **Bethlehem** the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David

## Lesson 4 (b)

- God can use a pagan Emperor to fulfil scripture and the emperor can remain completely ignorant of the facts



The Secular  
Sacred

versus

God's Working

THE

Powerful

Powerless



VE  
RS  
US



# The Secular versus The Sacred



Power versus Powerlessness

God's power is seen best through  
human powerlessness

Powerlessness & Hardship  
go together

It's often through Powerlessness &  
Hardship that God's eternal purposes  
are achieved

God chose to be Honoured through  
Powerlessness & Hardship