

He became poor.

Christmas 2016

He became poor. Introduction

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- Prior to his birth, Jesus Christ, God the Son, was always God – uncreated, eternal and holy beyond our comprehension.

# He became poor. Introduction

- The Gospel of John says about Jesus,
- **John 1:3** (ESV)
- All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

# He became poor. Introduction

- He needed nothing and was Lord of everything.
- Seeing our need, knowing our weakness and recognizing our poverty, God became man.

He became poor. Introduction

- **2 Corinthians 8:8** (ESV)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold      Luke 1:5-25

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold      Luke 1:5-25

- Zechariah and Elizabeth were just, righteous according to the law, but like all of us, they needed a Savior.
- They were honored by God being made the parents of Christ's forerunner – John.



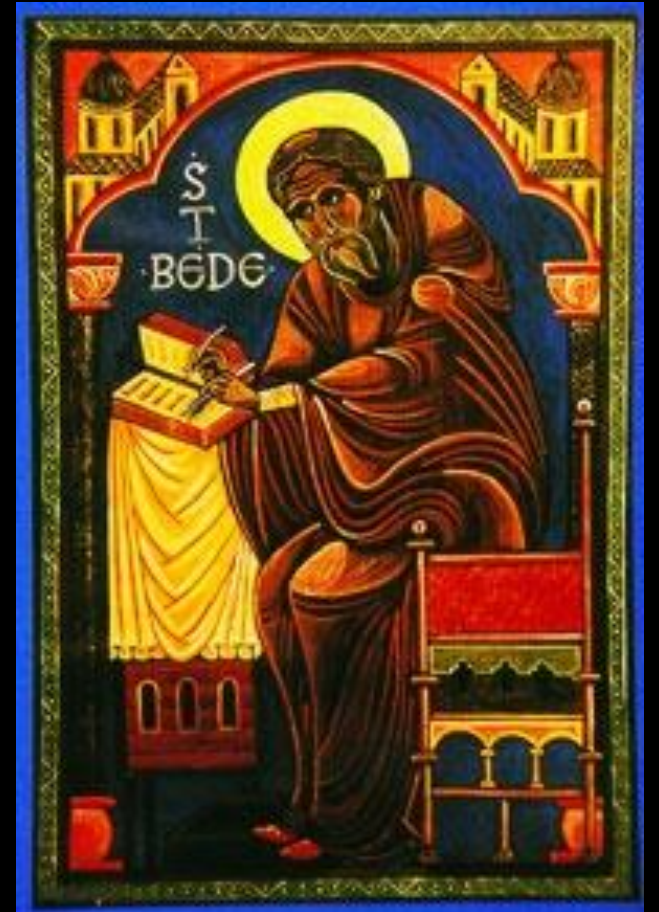
He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Birth of Jesus Foretold      Luke 1:26-38

He became poor.     Luke 1 & 2

*We should carefully note the order of the words here ... the sum total of our redemption consists in them. For ... the Lord Jesus, that is, our Savior, was both the true Son of God the Father and the true Son of a mother who was a human being ...*

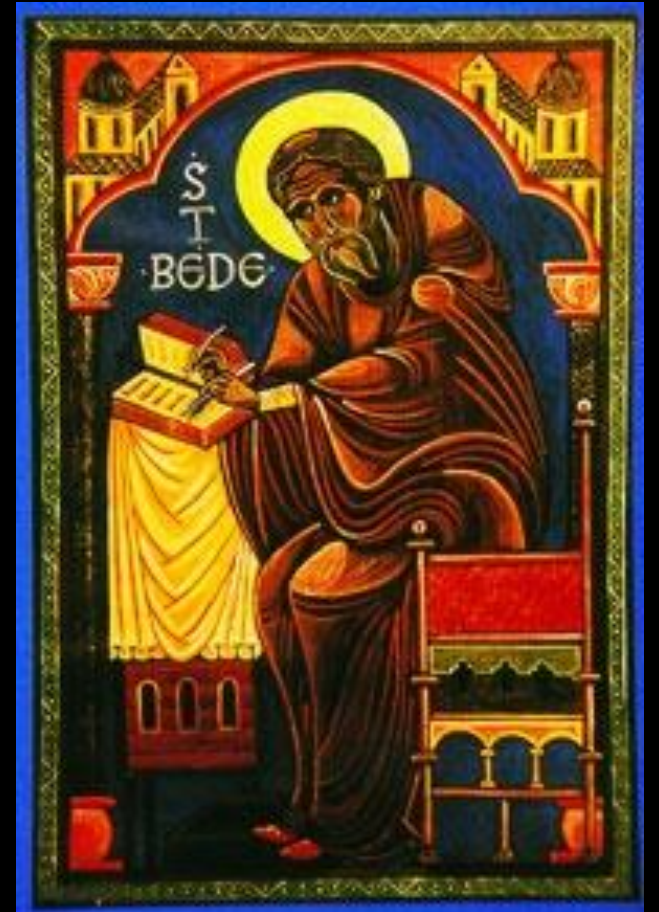
*– Bede (672 – 735), English monk*



He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

*Acknowledge that this true human being  
assumed the true substance of flesh from  
the flesh of the Virgin ... confess too that  
this same Son is true God of true God,  
coeternal Son forever of the eternal Father!*

*– Bede (672 – 735), English monk*



He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Mary Visits Elizabeth      Luke 1:39-45

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Mary Visits Elizabeth      Luke 1:39-45

- Mary, Elizabeth, and even John in the womb of his mother, acknowledge that Jesus is Lord.

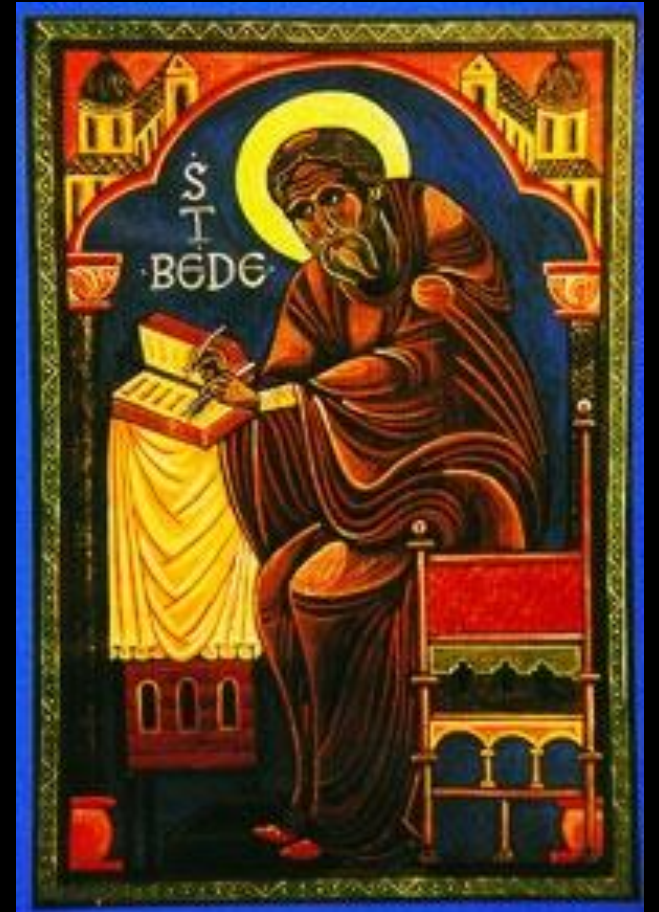
He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Mary's Song of Praise      Luke 1:46-56

He became poor.     Luke 1 & 2

*[Mary] demonstrates that in her own judgment she was indeed Christ's humble handmaid, but with respect to heavenly grace she pronounces herself all at once lifted up and glorified to such a degree that rightly her preeminent blessedness would be marveled at by the voices of all nations.*

*– Bede (672 – 735), English monk*



He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

The Birth of John the Baptist      Luke 1:57-66



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The Birth of John the Baptist      Luke 1:57-66

- John was the name that the angel had given the child.
- It means “God has been gracious” or “the grace of God.”

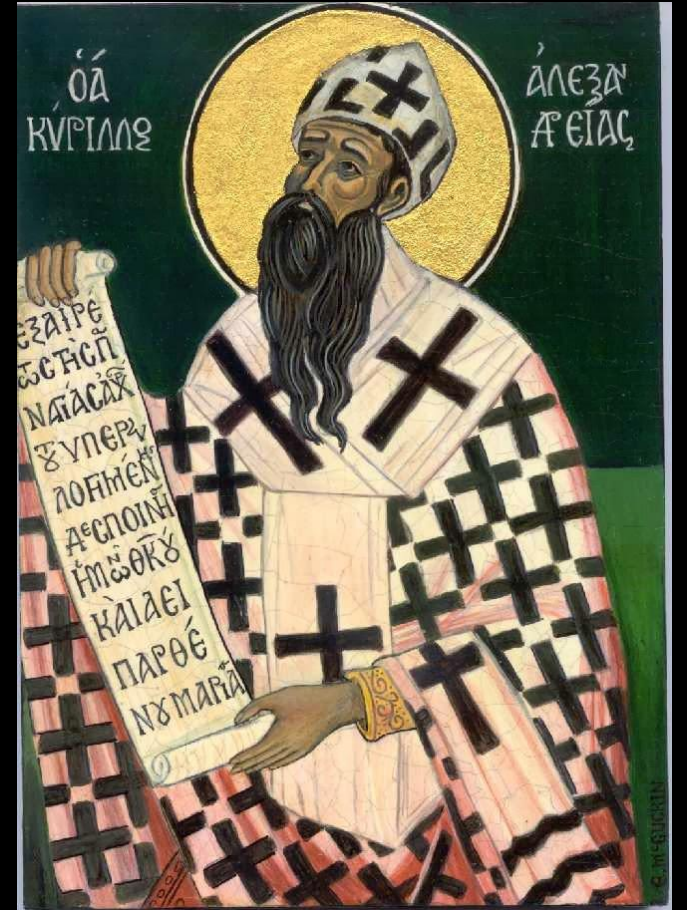
He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Zechariah's Prophecy      Luke 1:67-80

He became poor.     Luke 1 & 2

*For the world was wandering in error ...  
Night, as it were, that had fallen upon the  
minds of all, permitted them not to see  
him, who is truly and by nature God. But  
the Lord of all rose for the Israelites like a  
light and a sun.*

*– Cyril of Alexandria (376 – 444),  
Patriarch in the Egyptian Church*



He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Zechariah's Prophecy      Luke 1:67-80

- When Zechariah finally speaks, he declares truth about Christ and the role that John will play in relation to him.

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

The Birth of Jesus Christ      Luke 2:1-7

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The Birth of Jesus Christ      Luke 2:1-7

- God used the decree of Caesar to bring Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, where Christ had to be born.
- His birth fulfilled age-old prophecies.

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

The Birth of Jesus Christ      Luke 2:1-7

- Further, the name **Bethlehem** means “House of Bread.”
- It’s a perfect place for Jesus, the Bread of Life, to be born.

He became poor. Luke 1 & 2

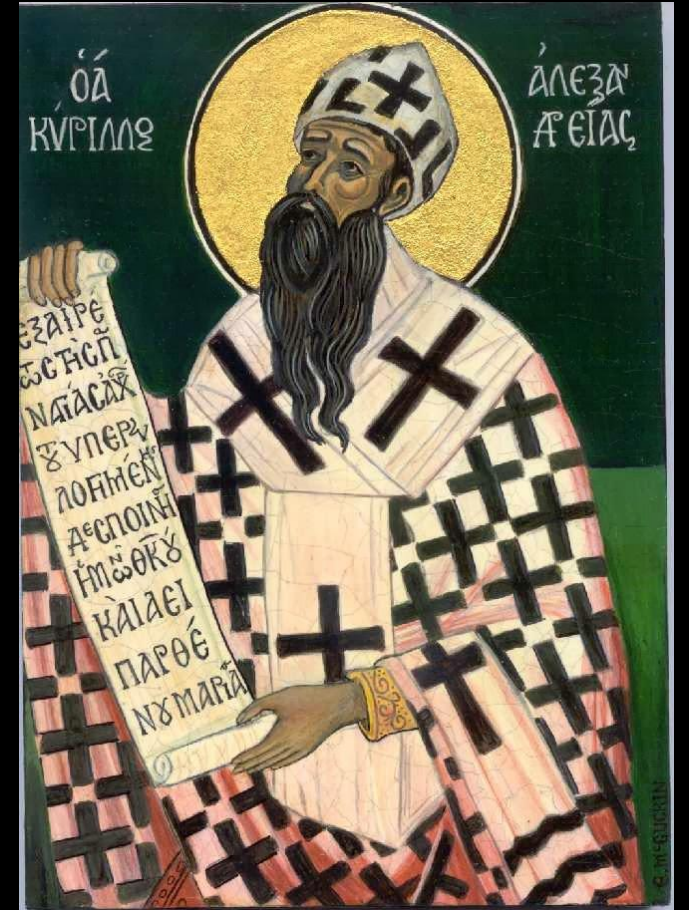
The Shepherds and Angels Luke 2:8-21



He became poor.     Luke 1 & 2

*Look not upon him who was laid in the manger as a babe merely, but in our poverty see him who as God is rich, and ... who therefore is glorified even by angels.*

*– Cyril of Alexandria (376 – 444),  
Patriarch in the Egyptian Church*



He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

- 2 Corinthians 8:8 (ESV)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

Jesus Presented at the Temple      Luke 2:22-38

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Jesus Presented at the Temple      Luke 2:22-38

- The two turtledoves (no partridge or pear tree) or pigeons were the sacrifice of a poor family.
- The name **Jesus** means “**salvation.**” Simeon knows he has seen **God’s salvation.**
- The elderly Anna also sees him for who he truly is.

He became poor. Luke 1 & 2

The Return to Nazareth Luke 2:39-40

He became poor.      Luke 1 & 2

The Return to Nazareth      Luke 2:39-40

- Having become a true human being, Christ's body and mind had to mature in accordance with a true human nature.
- In this way, God identified fully with us in our weakness.

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Conclusions

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- **2 Corinthians 8:8** (ESV)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.



He became poor.      **Conclusions**

- By fully identifying with us, Christ is a perfect Savior.
- He has shared our pain, and taken our guilt.
- In return, he offers us life and the opportunity to share in his eternal glory. **How should we respond?**

He became poor.      Conclusions

- **Philippians 2:1-11** (ESV)

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others ...

He became poor.      **Conclusions**

- **Philippians 2:1-11** (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross ...

He became poor.      Conclusions

- **Philippians 2:1-11** (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.