

FOREFRUNNER



Greater than John...

- He's comparing the greatest *man* who ever lived, to the only *God* who ever lived.
- This is the same Caesar who was credited with creating the *Pax Romana* – the Roman *peace*.
- These shepherds were the first *evangelists* of the Christian era.

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Greater than John...

1. Why Jesus Was Greater Than **John**.

a. Both John and Jesus had **miraculous** births.

- John was born to elderly parents. Jesus was born to a **virgin** (Lk. 1:27).

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b. Then there are the birth **settings**.

- Elizabeth gave birth in her home. Mary gave birth in **Bethlehem** (Lk. 2:4).

c. How about birth **circumstances**?

- John's birth was normal. Jesus' birth was **humble** (Lk. 2:7).

d. How about their **announcements**?

- John's birth was announced by Elizabeth. Jesus' birth was announced by an **angel**. (Lk. 2:10).
- Zechariah sang at John's birth. A **choir** of **angels** sang at Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:13).

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- Everyone who heard about John's birth was impressed. Everyone who heard about Jesus' birth was **amazed** (Lk. 2:18).
- Caesar was so powerful, they called him, "August," which means, "**majestic one.**"

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2. Why Jesus Was Greater than Caesar.

- Caesar's birth was noble. Jesus' birth was humble.

a. Let's compare heralds.

- Caesar's herald was a human. Jesus' herald was an angel.

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b. And how about **choirs**?

- Caesar had a choir to sing about his glory. Jesus had a **better choir**.

c. And how about **claims**?

- Caesar was called Savior and Lord. Jesus **IS** Savior and Lord (Lk. 2:11).

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d. How about actions?

- Caesar demonstrated his power by issuing a decree. God demonstrated His love by sending His Son.

e. How about motives?

- Caesar sent Joseph to Bethlehem to ensure he would pay taxes. God sent Jesus to Bethlehem to ensure He would pay for our sins.

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Greater than John...

- The God who cares **for** us, not the ruler who wants things **from** us.
- Luke is not only saying that this is a **birth** like no other, he's saying, "This is a **life** like no other."



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- Today we name our **children** “Jesus, Joseph, and Mary,” and we name our **dogs** “Caesar.”
- Jesus **has** to be worshiped.
- He came to **give** to us, because He didn't **need** anything from us.

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- His name is “Jesus,” (in Hebrew is “Yeshua”), which means “**Savior.**”
- Mary **meditated** (Lk. 2:19).
- The shepherds **worshipped** (Lk. 2:20) and **told** others (Lk. 2:17).

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