

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

"COME TO THE SAVIOR!"

Luke 1:26 – 2:38

> (1:26-56) COME TO THE MIRACLE!

- **The Prophet- Isaiah 7:14** *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

- **Genesis 3:15-** *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Abraham & Sarah in their 90's)*

- **Five "HE WILLS" of Jesus:**

- 1- Be great*
- 2- Son of the Highest*
- 3- Receive the Davidic throne*
- 4- Reign over Israel*
- 5- His Kingdom is eternal*

- **Mary believes in her SAVIOR! (v47)**

> (2:1-15) COME TO BETHLEHEM!

(v1-3) Rome took a *census* every fourteen years. Each Jewish male had to return to the city of his fathers to record his name, occupation, property and family. This was done for military and tax purposes.

(v4-5) Bethlehem was an 80-mile journey from Nazareth - **The prophet Micah in 740 B.C. predicted that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah:**

- **Micah 5:2 -** *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."*

It is significant that the King of kings, who was of the house of David, was born in David's ancestral home. Jesus was born in "the city of David," Bethlehem. Christ, who is the Bread of Life, was cradled in a town whose name means *"house of bread."*

- **Come to Jesus for spiritual bread - Matthew 4:4** - But He answered and said, *"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"*

- **Come to Jesus for physical bread - Matthew 6:11** - *Give us this day our daily bread.*

> (2:6-20) COME TO THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR!

- **Mary delivered this precious Son of God in a humble manger.** Later this child will receive three gifts - *gold, frankincense, myrrh*. Gold for the King of kings! Frankincense for the Holy High Priest, who never ceases to make intercession for us! Myrrh for His sacrificial death! This is whom Mary delivered.

- **God will also deliver all who believe! - Colossians 1:12-14-** *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

(v8-14) Think about this six-fold Angelic PROCLAMATION:

(1) Don't be afraid of God or His Son, John writes in **1 John 4:18-19** -*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*

(2) Good news and great joy for all people! Great means “megas” or MEGA JOY! This is why we proclaim **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

(3) A SAVIOR is born. Paul, the chief of sinners writes in Titus 3:4-7 - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

(4) Who is Christ the Lord – CHRIST means “anointed one.” For centuries the Jewish people had looked for a prophesied **Messiah**, a deliverer who would usher in a kingdom of peace and prosperity (Ps 110; Isa 32:1-8; Amos 9:13). Jesus was clearly identified as this Messiah in Peter's great confession, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"* (Matt 16:16).

(5) Join the heavenly host and sing “Glory to God in the highest!” Listen to how Charles Wesley put it in song.

(6) On earth peace and good will toward men – Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” - John 16:33 - *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

- Jesus performed **“good will”** for all! Listen to what Jesus declared to John the Baptist's disciples, *"Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."* (**Matt. 11:4-6**)

- **Charles Wesley in 1738**, about one year after his conversion wrote one of the most famous Christmas carols known to date regarding the purpose of God's gift for all humanity:

***“Hark! The herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new born King.”***

(v15-20) Shepherds declare salvation! – These Shepherds may have been those who watched over the flocks for the temple sacrifices, but now they have met the Lamb of God. John the Baptist declared about Jesus ***“Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”***

> **(v21-40) COME TO THE TESTIMONY!**

- Simeon means *Harkening*- What will this man hear?

#1- That Jesus is the Christ!

#2- That Jesus is salvation for all people!

#3- That Jesus is a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles!

#4- That Jesus is the glory of your people Israel!

- What did Simeon hear to Mary?

> Jesus made a decision to grow in **SCRIPTURE** and **SERVICE**, whereas, to “*be about His Father’s business,*” let’s do the same. May you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.* (2 Peter 3:1)
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God Sent Us A Savior

*If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.*

*If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.*

*If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist*

*If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.*

*If our greatest need had been forgiveness,
God would have sent us a Savior.*