

# **“MERRY CHRISTMAS!”**

## **Luke Chapter 2**

### **> Six keys to Christmas:**

#### **- Key #1 - A DECREE IS GIVEN! (v1-5)**

(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."*).

#### **- Key #2 - A DELIVERY IS MADE! (v6-7)**

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. **So will God deliver all who believe** - Col 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.*

#### **- Key #3 - A DECLARATION PROCLAIMED! (v8-20)**

(v8-14) Think about this five-fold Angelic declaration: (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

(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 and the Chief Shepherd wrapped in One.

#### **-Key #4 - A DEDICATION CONFIRMED! (v21-33)**

(v21a) His name is Jesus - *Jehovah is Salvation!*

(v21b) Law of circumcision - Origin: Covenant with Abraham- Gen. 15; Law of Moses instituted - Lev. 12:3

(v22) Law of purification (for Mary) - Lev. 12:2-6 (Male child: a total of 40 days)

(23-24) Law of presentation- Ex 13:13-16

#### **- Key #5 - A DESTINY DETERMINED! (v34-38)**

- 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!

#### **- Key #6 - A DECISION TO FOLLOW! (v39-52)**

> 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)

One author describes Jesus as:

*The Word of God became flesh . . .*

*The Son of God became man . . .*

*The Lord of All became a servant . . .*

*The Righteous One was made sin . . .*

*The Eternal One tasted death . . .*

*The Risen One now lives in men . . .*

*The Seated One is coming again!*