

## GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

### "PROMISE"

*"...she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1:21-23*

#### I. The Promise to Redeem

*God: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15 (NIV)*

#### II. The Promise Foreshadowed

- The Substitute Ram at the Offering of Isaac—Genesis 22
- The Passover & Sin Offering Lamb

*God: "Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses...Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you..." Exodus 12:5-7 & 13*

#### III. The Promise Disclosed

*"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" Psalm 2:7*

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14*

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And, His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. Isaiah 9:6-7*

*"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." Micah 5:2 [Matthew 2:6]*

#### IV. The Promise Fulfilled

*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11*

The Promise of God to me this Christmas: \_\_\_\_\_

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**GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY:  
The Words of Christmas  
"Peace"**

*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:10-14*

Greek = Eirene    Hebrew = Shalom

**Beware of False Peace:**

- Pox Romana

*And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. Luke 2:1*

- False Saviors & False Peace in: self, wisdom, education, money, retirement, or seclusion

**I. A Saving Peace with God**

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1*

- Saved from Sin
- Saved from the Devil's Power
- Saved from God

*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:10*

**II. A Personal Peace Within**

*Jesus: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27*

**III. A Relational Peace with Each Other**

*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Colossians 3:15*

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross... Ephesians 2:14-16*

*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:18*

**IV. A Perfect Peace in the Future**

*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the Word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Isaiah 2:3-4*

### The Words of Christmas:

#### "Joy"

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:9-11

- Why were the magi so joyful?

Elizabeth: "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy." Luke 1:44

Mary: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name." Luke 1:46-49

#### Joy & Rejoice

- Joy—Greek: chara (gladness)  
& agalliasis (gladness at arrival/special guest)
- Rejoice—Greek: chairō (gladness expressed)  
& kauchaomai (to boast in or glory in)

Joy is a Choice,  
Not a Feeling

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. James 1:2-3

Joy is Based on Truth,  
Not on Circumstances

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:6-9

Joy is the Produce of Obedience,  
Not a Result of Prosperity

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22

- The Most Joyless Person isn't the Worldly, Lost Sinner.
- It's the Christian Living like the World.

My Joy this Christmas is found in Christ,  
Not in This World

*The Words of Christmas:*  
 "Glory"

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 40:5

- In Hebrew: *kavowd*
  - In Greek: *doxa*
1. A Condition: Light
  2. Something Given: Praise/Honor
  3. An Opinion, View, or Judgment

*Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:8-14*

The Revealing of God's Glory = Jesus Christ

I. The Arrival of Glory

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15

II. The Bestowing of Glory

*Jesus: "I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."* John 8:12

III. The Future State of Glory

The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. Revelation 21:23

Ways I Can Give Jesus the Glory This Christmas: \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Words of Christmas:  
"Savior"*

*"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* Luke 2:11

- "Savior" in Greek: So-tare = To Save/Preserve

*"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*  
Matthew 1:21

Jesus = Joshua = Jehovah Saves

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name.*  
John 1:12

*"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*  
Acts 4:12

*Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people.* Psalm 3:8 & Jonah 2:9

*And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.* 1 John 4:14

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.* Titus 2:11-13

- Past—"...has appeared..."
- Present—"...in the present age..."
- Future—"...looking for..."

### 1. Inclusivity [Man]

*He [Simeon] took Him [Jesus] up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples: A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."* Luke 2:28-32

### 2. Exclusivity [God]

*Jesus: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me."* John 14:6

### 3. Eternality

*Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 1:10-11