

# True Joy of Christmas

**Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

Sometimes we don't appreciate good news until we see it after some of bad news. Sometimes it takes a disaster to wake us up to the goodness of God. The coming of Christ to the world is the best news the world has ever heard. Israel had many years of disaster and they were not living the dream. Now some very good news had come, but of course many did not understand how good the news was for mankind.

## 1. The Joy of Prophecy Fulfilled

- A. The angel said: **Luke 2:10 "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."**
- B. The angel was proclaiming something that had been planned from the beginning of time. Adam and Eve was in the garden of plenty but when satan tempted Eve, both she and Adam failed to believe God's word and sinned. A judgement was handed down to both Adam and Eve because of their sin. That was then passed down to us.

God then made a promise to satan concerning his relationship with mankind. **Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.** (Enmity means: long term opposition and hostility) This promise was that the seed of the woman would have satan bruise the heel, but the seed of the woman would bruise satan's head. A wound to the heel is much less than a crushed head. The seed of the woman would eventually crush satan's power. This was a direct prophecy of the coming Christ who would destroy satan's power.

Adam Clark said: *"Therefore the address is not to Adam and Eve, but to Eve alone; and it was in consequence of this purpose of God that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin; this, and this alone, is what is implied in the promise of the seed of the woman bruising the head of the serpent. Jesus Christ died to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, and to destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Thus he bruises his head - destroys his power and lordship over mankind, turning them from the power of Satan unto God;"*

- C. **Isa 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:**

**And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;**

Prophecy concerning this coming redeemer is everywhere in the scripture. The angel said: "born this day in the city of David" The Christ would be of the family of David. Born in the city of David.

*"Indeed, Jesus did come from the stump of Jesse. The royal authority of the house of David had lain dormant for 600 years when Jesus came as King and Messiah. When Jesus came forth, it was like a new green Branch coming from an apparently dead stump." David Guzik*

The tree seemed to be cut down but there was life still in the roots. The promise of God was not dead, it was still alive. The coming redeemer would be born in the city of David just as God said.

*"In 1865 a Boston pastor named Phillips Brooks visited the Holy Land at Christmastime. Upon his return he wrote a Christmas carol, which his choir director set to music for their Christmas concert in 1867. We still sing it today. "O little of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by." He wrote it that way because 140 years ago Bethlehem was still a tiny village—a quiet and peaceful place. Bethlehem is called the "city of David" because David grew up here along with his father Jesse and his seven brothers. In fact, David tended sheep in the fields outside the village just as the shepherds were doing the night the angel appeared to them."*

There were 356 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ. God gave us these Old Testament prophecies is to help us identify the Messiah. It is estimated that there were 250 million people alive in the world in A.D. 33 – the year Jesus died. This means that one male out of the 250 million people in A.D. 33 would have had to die that year by crucifixion, be of Jewish descent from King David, be born in Bethlehem, have been a teacher using parables, healed others and performed miracles. He would have had to ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, been rejected by the leaders and then died four days later with no broken bones but with pierced feet, hands and side during absolute darkness. This individual would have had to die during one unique week – the predicted week.

## 2. The Joy That the Redeemer was Born

- A. **Luke 1:34-35** Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
- B. There were no miracles associated with the physical birth of Jesus Christ. Even though we often speak of the Virgin Birth of Christ, it's important to remember that the real miracle took place nine months earlier when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary with the result that although she was a virgin, she became pregnant. That was an enormous miracle that has never been repeated in the history of the world. Across the centuries, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ has been considered a foundational doctrine by Christians. Since Jesus was born of Mary, we know that He was truly human. Since He was conceived through the Holy Spirit, we know that He was more than a man. The virgin birth was God's way of announcing to the world that Jesus was indeed His Son. Through the virgin birth, the Son of God entered the human race, taking upon Himself all aspects of true humanity, yet remaining sinless, and without surrendering any aspect of His deity. Thus the Babe in the manger was truly Almighty God from heaven. He was fully God and yet fully man at the same time.
- C. Skeptics doubt the virgin birth and make fun of the belief. We must remember that God is the creator of all and he has the power to do anything. To be called the Son of God Jesus had to be conceived the way He was. This was God's plan from the beginning and would happen just the way he planned.

## 3. The Great Joy Over the Message

- A. **"For unto you is born... a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"** Savior is actually an Old Testament word that means "deliverer of his people." Christ is the Greek version of the Hebrew word Messiah, which means "the anointed One." Lord is a term for His Deity. It's a synonym for God.
- B. The Angel spoke to Joseph: **Mat 1:20-21** But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
- C. Consider those two words: **"unto you."** Pause for a moment and consider who was speaking and who was being addressed. When the shepherds heard these words from the angel, they must have been amazed. Shepherds were near the bottom of the social order of ancient Israel. They were often poor and uneducated and some were quite young. Not very many people would pick "shepherd" on their Career path. There were many easier ways to make a living in ancient Israel. So when the angel says, "To you is born," he's really saying, "Christ came for you lowly shepherds." But what about those theologians in Jerusalem who knew

but didn't care? He came for them too, but they missed it altogether. The first ones to hear the good news of Christmas was the lowest on the social ladder.

- D. That was the message of Jesus. **1Cor 1:26-27 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;**
- E. In the Beatitudes Jesus said: **Mat 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
Poor in spirit means: poor – Distressed, spirit – mental disposition  
Jesus said: **John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**
- F. The message and sacrifice of Christ is, "in me there is hope and new life". This all started in the new life that is the birth of the savior.