

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year – A Time for JOY

Luke 2:8-14

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What is Joy?

Webster defines joy as *the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires.*

-Joy Is Not Happiness.

**Happiness is dependent upon my circumstances.
Joy is not affected by external happenings.**

-Joy Cannot Be Found In Pleasure

-Joy Cannot Be Found In Wealth And Riches.

-Joy Cannot Be Found In Prestige Or Fame.

1. Hope Had Come To Us.

Luke 2:11

For to you is born today, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ (Messiah) the Lord.

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.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be on His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

2. It Was Proof That God Always Keeps His Word.

Listen as God fulfills His Word through the birth of Jesus.

- Jesus will come from the line of Abraham. *Prophecy:* Genesis 12:3. *Fulfilled:* Matthew 1:1.
- Jesus' mother will be a virgin. *Prophecy:* Isaiah 7:14. *Fulfilled:* Matthew 1:18-23.
- Jesus will be a descendent of Isaac and Jacob. *Prophecy:* Genesis 17:19 and Numbers 24:17. *Fulfilled:* Matthew 1:2.
- Jesus will be born in the town Bethlehem. *Prophecy:* Micah 5:2. *Fulfilled:* Luke 2:1-7.

- Jesus will be called out of Egypt. *Prophecy: Hosea 11:1. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:13–15.*
- Jesus will be a member of the tribe of Judah. *Prophecy: Genesis 49:10. Fulfilled: Luke 3:33.*
- Jesus will be from the lineage of King David. *Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:6.*
- Jesus' birth will be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow. *Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:16.*

2 Corinthians 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" ascends to God for his glory.

1 Samuel 15:29

And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind

D.L. Moody said, "God never made a promise that was too good to be true."

3. It Meant Deliverance From SIN.

Luke 2:11

For to you is born today, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 1:21

And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

4. Because God Provided a Savior and Victory Over Death.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.