

Good News of Great Joy!

I. Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,^[b] who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.^[c]

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, *“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.* ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a *multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. - Luke 2:1-20

II. Shepherds Quake at the Sight!

“...for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people.” - Luke 2:10

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a *sign for you*: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and *lying in a manger.*” - Luke 2:11-12

And suddenly there was with the angel a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” - Luke 2:13-14

**The Greatest and Only Lasting Joy is the Joy of the Good News of Great Joy;
A Savior Has Been Born!**

III. What is Joy?

1. Joy is a pronouncement! Christian joy is the pronouncement of a Savior!

2. Joy is an emotion.

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” - Luke 2:15

3. Joy is not circumstantially dependent.

And the shepherds *returned*, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. - Luke 2:20

4. Joy amidst sorrow is not a contradiction.

When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul. – Psalm 94:19

5. Joy, not suffering or trials or sorrow, will conquer and reign and rule!

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” - 1 Peter 1:8

“...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” - Hebrews 12:2

IV. How Do We Respond to Joy? Rejoice!