"CHRISTMAS: A Time For Rejoicing!"

Luke 2:10-11
12/25/92

INTRODUCTION:

Illus: How we say "Merry Christmas" without understanding what the word "*merry*" means. It means to be happy, joyful, cheerful, or full of cheer, jubilant, gleeful; to have a lighthearted, optimistic, glad spirit!

The birth of Jesus Christ is a reason for rejoicing!

Why?

I. Because a SAVIOR has come!

II. Because a MESSIAH has come!

III. Because the LORD has come!

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"fear not" - the presence of a holy, glowing angel from heaven would cause fear to shepherds who never saw an angel before. If an angel of the Lord woke you up in the middle of the night or came into this building today, we would have cause to fear.

"Fear not" - because I am not sent as a "death angel!" I am not sent to execute a judgment for God. But rather, to bring the best message ever heard! The Lord has come!

"Good tidings" - a good announcement; a good message

"Great joy" - not just "joy" but great, enormous, exhilarating joy!

The fact of Christ coming into this world caused much joy.

--Elizabeth was filled with joy, as evident by her words (Lk. 1:41-43)
--John the Baptist leaped for joy while in his mother's womb (Lk. 1:44)

--The Virgin Mary rejoiced (Lk. 1:46-55)
--A multitude of angels rejoiced (Lk. 2:13-14)
--The shepherds rejoiced (2:20)
--Simeon rejoiced (2:28-33)
--The prophetess Anna rejoiced (3:38)

"to all people" - The message of good news is for all people! Christ's birth has influenced the world more than the birth of anyone else who ever lived.

God wants His people to rejoice! EX: the O.T. celebrations.

EX: the Alleluias and exclamation: *"Let us be glad and rejoice"* (of Rev. 19:7)

The birth of Jesus Christ is a reason for rejoicing!

Why?

I. Because a SAVIOR has come!

"Savior" - a deliverer; one who rescues, one who saves

Mt. 1:21 - *"And thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."*

The eternal Son of God became incarnate (became man) to save man!

Have you experienced salvation? Do you know what it means to be delivered from a life of guilt, torment, and vanity?

II. Because a MESSIAH has come!

*"**Christ**"* - The anointed One; the promised Messiah. The long-awaited Messiah (Jn. 4:42).

The One whom the Prophets foretold!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Is. 9:6-7)

National Israel is still awaiting the Messiah, not realizing that He already came almost 2,000 years ago.

III. Because the <u>LORD</u> has come!

The *"Lord"* -

1. "Kurios" - points to Christ's <u>Deity</u>

   YAHWEH of the O.T.

   He is *"Emmanuel"!* (Mt. 1:23)

2. "Kurios" - points to Christ's <u>sovereignty</u>

   He is Lord of lords (meaning Lord <u>over</u> lords)

3. "Kurios" - points to Christ's <u>majesty</u>

He is worthy of honor and praise because He is King Jesus - Lord of the universe

All mankind will one day bow! Will you confess Him as your "Lord" today? (Rom. 10:9)

CONCLUSION:

At Christmas time much of the world languishes in misery, hurt feelings, sorrow, and loneliness. Because the true meaning of Christmas is missing

Real joy comes not from presents, family get togethers, food, and Christmas parties but from knowing that your Savior left Heaven's glory to visit this globe for 33 1/s years. All for the purpose that He might save you from your sins.

I Tim. 1:15; Luke 19:10

Remember: Jesus Christ is to be the *Reason* for the *Season*!

This Christmas be merry! Be glad that you know Christ! Be glad that you found Him!

Rejoice that He has entered your heart!

Be filled with joy because of his gift of eternal life.

Be jubilant and leap with glee because of the load of sin, shame, and guilt He has removed from you!