"Good Tidings of Great Joy"

Luke 2:10-11

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; glad spirit!

"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.

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."*

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!

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

A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy.
It is said that 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the first coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000—plus 90 more zeros).

Did you know…

1. **The O.T. tells us WHERE the Messiah would be born:**
   Answer: **BETHLEHEM** (Micah 5:2)

2. **The O.T. tells us WHEN the Messiah would be born:**
   Answer: **483 YEARS after Artaxerxes' degree to rebuild Jerusalem** (Dan.9:25;Neh.2:5)

3. **The O.T. tells us HOW the Messiah would be born:**
   Answer: **Of a VIRGIN** (Is.7:14; Mt.1:23)

4. **The O.T. tells us THE NAMES AND TITLES of the Messiah who would be born:**
   Answer: **Wonderful - Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6)

5. **The O.T. tells us WHAT the Messiah would be like and HOW He would be viewed and treated when He came into the world:**
   Answer: **Humble & Rejected** (Isaiah 53:1-3)

6. **The O.T. tells us WHY the Messiah would be born:**
   Answer: **To Suffer & Die for the Sins of the World** (Isaiah 53:4-12)

III. Because the LORD has come!

The *"Lord"* -
1."Kurios" - points to Christ's Deity
He is *"Emmanuel"!* (Mt. 1:23)
2."Kurios" - points to Christ's sovereignty
He is Lord of lords (meaning Lord over lords)
3."Kurios" - points to Christ's majesty

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

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.