

I. CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT HEAVEN BREAKING INTO EARTH

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

- A. An angel stands before them, the glory of the Lord shines around them, and the angel declares an amazing message. Good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. A Savior is born today in the city of David. Christ the Lord. Then there are a multitude of angels appears saying: “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men!”
- B. One of the first people to know about Jesus were shepherds who lived out in the field. When God breaks in, it’s usually in the context of common ordinary everyday life. People living, working. Being faithful in the little things.

II. CHRISTMAS FILLS OUR HEARTS WITH WONDER

- A. About 24x’s in the Gospels, it says that people *marveled* about things pertaining to Jesus.
Matthew 15:31 So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.
Luke 4:22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
- B. The shepherds marveled, Mary pondered.
Luke 2:18-19 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
- C. The Wonder of the Incarnation: God became man. Jesus became a man, a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths. God the eternal became a man. God forever identified Himself with man. We are created in God’s image (Gen. 1:26).
Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- D. The wonder of Christmas is that God draws near to us
 - 1. Jesus is Immanuel (God with us).
Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
 - 2. We will be united with Jesus. “One flesh” not only speaks of husband and wife, but it speaks of Christ and the church. We will be spiritually united with Jesus. In order for that to happen, Jesus had to become a human being. Jesus is fully God (John 20:28) and fully man (Luke 2:40).

Eph. 5:31-32 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

- E. There are moments in our lives when heaven breaks in. Jesus coming to earth was one of those amazing moments. It will have its culmination when Jesus returns to establish God's Kingdom fully on the earth.

Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

1. This is the great news that the angels declared. Peace, goodwill, joy, glory.

Mark 4:30-32 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?" ³¹ "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; ³² "but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

2. Joy to the World! There is a deep confidence and happiness in our hearts. Jesus is coming back! "Joy to the World" is more about Jesus' Second coming than His first.

HAVE A WONDER-FUL CHRISTMAS!

Christmas is about lights. Jesus, the light of the world was born (John 8:12)

Christmas is about praising God. The hosts of heaven appeared to the shepherds and announced:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14).

Christmas is about giving. God so loved the world, He gave. He gave the best He had, His Son (John 3:16).

Christmas is about the Great Shepherd who leads us and guides us like a shepherd leads his sheep with a staff, the shape of a candy cane (Psalm 23)

Christmas is about love. God so loved, He gave us Jesus, who died for us on the cross, a tree (1 Peter 2:24).

Above all...Christmas is about Jesus, the Son of God who became a man. We come to worship Him.

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

Luke 2:11