



GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

Luke 2:1-14

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto **the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.



6 **And so it was**, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**



11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

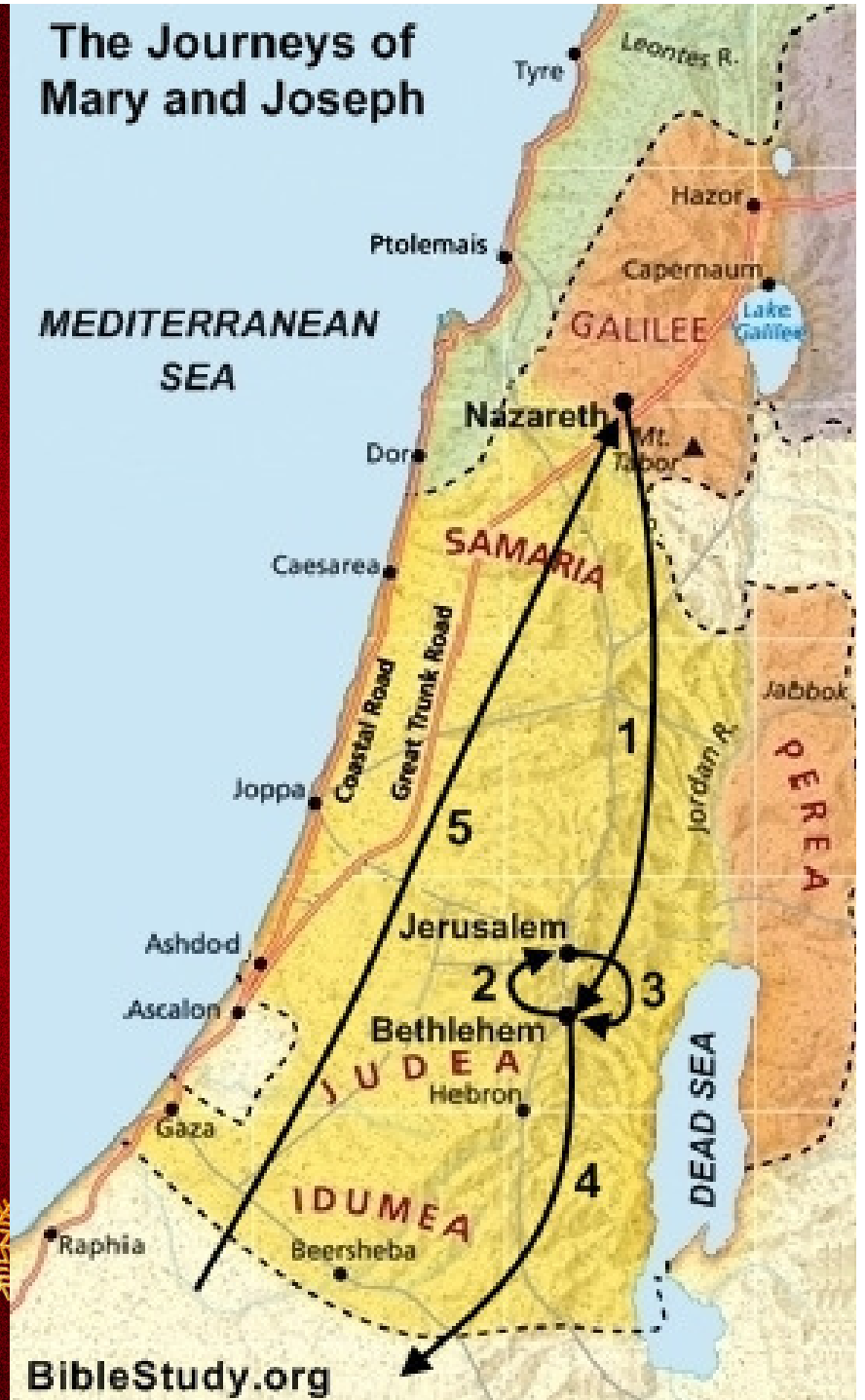
13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 **Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Mic. 5:2 But thou, **Bethlehem** Ephratah, *though* thou be **little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel**; whose goings forth *have been* **from of old, from everlasting.**



The Journeys of Mary and Joseph



<http://www.biblestudy.org/maps/the-journeys-of-mary-and-joseph.html>



I. THE PROVIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP OF THE LORD, 2:1-6

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

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5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 **And so it was**, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.



A. The Taxing was God's Providential Guidance

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.**

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

Rom. 8:28 And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

B. The Timing was God's Provisional Gift

Gen. 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.



Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: ***it is the gift of God:***

II. THE PRESENTATION OF THE LOWLINESS OF THE LORD, 2:7-12

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and **laid him in a manger;** because there was no room for them in the inn.



A. The Significance of the Humble Circumstances, 2:7

- Jesus was not born in the house of royalty, nor the house of riches, nor the house of celebrity.
- Jesus was not born in Jerusalem, nor in Rome, nor in Athens or Alexandria.
- Jesus was not born in any political, commercial, cultural, educational, or socially significant city of the day.
- When Micah, the Old Testament prophet, foretold the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, he emphasized its lack of significance to the world.



Mic. 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, **though thou be little among the thousands of Judah**, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

- CHRIST WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, "THE HOUSE OF BREAD" (the literal meaning of the city's name), TO IDENTIFY WITH THE COMMON MAN.
- Bread is one of life's most common things for mankind's nourishment.
- God wanted His Son available to all.
- His cradle was a manger, an animal's feeding trough in a lowly stable.



- There is no human so low that he or she is outside the reach of the love of God!
- CHRIST WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, "THE HOUSE OF BREAD", TO SATISFY OUR SPIRITUAL HUNGER.
- Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger." (John 6:35)
- Bread is a good comparison to our Lord because He satisfies, gratifies and strengthens us spiritually just as bread does physically.



B. The Shepherds Holy Charge

Lu. 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



- His birth was announced to shepherds, the common man, but not to King Herod.
- Shepherding was NOT the most respectable occupation of the day.

Gen. 46:33 And it shall come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call you, and shall say, What *is* your occupation?

34 That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, *and* also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; **for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.**

- Shepherds were the best qualified to know the Lamb of God!

Jn. 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**



1 Pet. 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with **the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**

III. THE PRAISE AND LAUDING OF THE LORD

A. The Appearance of God's Glory, 2:9

Luke 2:9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord** shone round about them: and **they were sore afraid.**



- The special arrival of the Savior required special phenomena!
- God's glory caused fear within the hearts of the shepherds.
- God's working in mysterious ways too often is misunderstood by those receiving His message.

B. The Announcement for God's Glory, 2:10-14

Lu. 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, **behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

12 And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



13 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, good will toward men.

- The announcement was “...good tidings of **great joy**...”
- The promise was “...to **all people**.”
- The great occasion was **the fulfillment of the promise of the Messiah** – “...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”



- The Jewish shepherds received a sign for verification of the announcement – “...Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”
- The “...heavenly host...” understood the magnitude of importance of the birth of Christ – “...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 **Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
- Mankind was given the provision to fulfill the purpose of creation – GLORIFY THE CREATOR!



Isa. 43:7 *Even* every one that is called by my name: for **I have created him for my glory**, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and **come short of the glory of God;**

Phil. 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should **confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**



Conclusion

Bethlehem represents the humble introduction of the Savior to mankind. A simple stable, and the lowly shepherds in a lonely environment, all set the stage for the greatest arrival mankind will ever encounter!

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day **in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

- The Lamb of God came to give His life for us!

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

2 Cor. 5:14 **For the love of Christ** constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:**

15 And *that* he died for all, that **they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.**