

Joy to the World

Part 4

“The Arrival”

Luke 2

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

The Message of the Angels was “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people”...

- Jesus coming to into the world is a message of Joy to the World...
- The World had never seen anything like this before...
- An intervention from Heaven like this had never been seen...
- This was the manifestation of what was said by the prophets coming to pass at an unexpected moment...

Jesus truly was the first bundle of Joy...

This was Good News for all of mankind...

Vs. 8,9

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them

God moves:

- In unexpected ways...
- On unexpected People...
- At unexpected Times...
- in unexpected Places...
- With unexpected Favor...

The News that day was:

10

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

So you might ask; what's so Good about this Good News?

I'm Glad You Asked...

There were many Prophecies about the Messiah

I want to share 3 of those with you...

1. The Messiah will bring a New Covenant: (Forgiveness)

Jeremiah 31:31

31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,

Covenant:

- Alliance, pledge between God and Man.

- A disposition, arrangement, of any sort, which one wishes to be valid
- A Testament or Will

Matthew 26:28

for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:15

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance...

Isaiah 53

5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
 The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
 And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 We have turned, every one, to his own way;
 And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

2. The Messiah is the Anointed One: (Hope & Healing)

Luke 4:17-21 - Jesus reads from Isaiah 61

¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ **“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
 because he has anointed me
 to proclaim good news to the poor.
 He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
 and recovering of sight to the blind,
 to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

Isaiah 9

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

3. The Messiah is our Kinsman-Redeemer: (Provider)

This is not a *prediction* of the Messiah, but a *picture* that would ultimately be fleshed out in Jesus. The key word here is “redeem.” The term “redemption” is familiar from Exodus 6:6 in which God redeems Israel from bondage in Egypt.

God continues to be the great redeemer when Israel is in need: “I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel” (**Isaiah 41:14**).

Jewish culture has also reflected God’s character as redeemer. In each family or clan of ancient Israel, a family member was responsible for “redeeming” others in the clan at various times of need.

Leviticus 25:25 speaks of redemption of property, when a family member bought back land that a relative had sold. A relative who had sold himself into slavery was to be bought back (redeemed) by another in the clan.

In the book of Ruth, we see a picture of Boaz stepping in as the Kinsman Redeemer. In this situation the Kinsman Redeemer was under no obligation to perform the act of redemption, yet he willingly did so.

The Hebrew word used here is *Hesed*, meaning *lovingkindness* or *mercy*, *Hesed* implies acting to meet the deep needs of others based on relationship of commitment and covenant. Because of this, it also implies that a more powerful person will be the one showing *Hesed* to one who is in need, and it is done voluntarily. In the same way,

Jesus is our redeemer – and even more so, our *kinsman*-redeemer. He is our kinsman, our family, by virtue of being human as well as divine.

In the Story line of “Joy to the World” we see a family in need...

This is a family that represents all of us...

There are unexpected events...

There is great need...

There is Stress and Conflict...

There is difficulty and times of little hope...

In the midst of all this they find hope from an unexpected source, Uncle Buck, the Kinsman Redeemer...

God isn't the author of hopelessness...

He is the one who shows up in the midst of it...

He is the one who shows up unexpectedly...

Like he did that first night when Shepherds were tending their flocks in the night...

He finds us in the darkness and he surrounds us with his glorious presents...

He says to us “I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

And like when Uncle Buck shows up with a New Contract, God shows up with a New Covenant that he paid for with his own blood...

And in that New Covenant it reveals that He paid a price that we could never pay...

In Christ we are no longer slaves...

In Christ we are no longer lost...

In Christ we are Saved...

In Christ we have Hope...

In Christ we have reason to Rejoice...

In Christ we have a Kinsman Redeemer...

We have a Savior...

We have a New Contract with God