

“Christmas According To” Series:

# Early Believers



Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 12/23/2018

## I. The First Christmas

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## II. The First Witnesses

Luke Chapter 2

Luke 2:15-20

Shepherds Rejoicing

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Luke 2:28-32

Simeon’s Thanksgiving

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Luke 2:36-38

Anna’s Proclamation

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## III. The First Priority

### *Personal Reflection*

*Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:*

*At the first advent, few people were ready & able to believe that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. Courageous faith & love for God enabled them to be the first generation of witnesses to the miracle of the incarnation. Their testimony paved the way for the countless others who have since then added their voices to the rejoicing, thanksgiving & proclamation of the goodness & faithfulness of God.*

*The first Christmas began as a seemingly inconsequential birth & in a nondescript backwater section of the Roman Empire. It soon grew into a movement that transformed the world. Christmas is a critical chapter in the story of God saving the world from self-destruction. The next chapter will unfold at the second advent.*

*When Jesus comes again, the Messiah will be seen & heard by all. There will be no doubt as to who He is or why He has returned. There will be no hiding or denying the truth at the second advent of Christ.*

*Are you ready for the second advent of Christ? If you have trusted Him to preserve your life throughout eternity, are you likewise trusting Him to guide & direct your life in the here & now?*

*Prayerfully consider your readiness to stand before the Lord when He comes again. Express your thanksgiving to God for sending His Son to save the world. Commit to invest the rest of your days in the carrying out of His will for your life.*