

LOVE TAKES A TURN

Noel: Love is here

week 4

In the story of all creation, the birth of Jesus is the major turning point. God's love is now manifested in human flesh and he will save us from our sins.

JOY GLORY PEACE LIGHT

In Luke in chapter 2 we read, “I bring you good news that will bring great ***joy to all*** people. The Savior— yes, the Messiah, the Lord— has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!... ***Glory to God*** in highest heaven and ***peace on earth***... He is a light to ***reveal God to the nations***, and he is the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:10-11,14, 32)

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- Let's think back over the history of the world and trace the promises fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.
 - In the beginning Adam and Eve sinned. An animal shed its blood and its skin covered them.
 - When Moses led Israel out of Egypt, a lamb's blood covered the doors of their houses, and they were spared.
 - As David and Solomon established the Temple, daily animal sacrifices were made for the people's sins. Only by the blood were they able to worship God.
 - All the way along the prophets said One was coming who would set everything right before God. The Messiah was on his way.

The prophet Isaiah recorded these words circa 740 BC, “The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’... there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles will be filled with glory. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light... For a child is born to us, a son is given to us...” (Isaiah 7:14, 9:1-2, 6)

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- No wonder the arrival of Jesus on earth is Good News for all people! We are made right with God through his blood shed for us.
 - Titus 3:4-6 will give us four reasons to thank God for Jesus who is our Good News and the turning point of God's love for us.

1) JESUS IN TIME

- “But- When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love...
 - We live ‘when’ God’s kindness and love are seen through Jesus. The invisible God pulled back the veil and has shown us his face!

2) JESUS IS GOD'S MERCY

- He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy...
- Mercy is not getting what we actually deserve. The payment for our sin should have been death, but Jesus took it for us. Now we no longer receive what we deserve, but are instead saved and set free.

3) JESUS IS GOD'S GRACE

- Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life.
 - Grace is freely receiving what we never deserved. Grace is God's free gift, unmerited on our part. Our confidence is not in our deeds, but in Jesus's.

4) JESUS FILLS US

- He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.
- Our salvation is not only something done for us but it is also something done *in us!* We now have a new beginning because Jesus' *birth resulted in our new birth to new life!*