

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!”

Luke Chapter 2

DA ! (v1-5)

(v1-3) Rome took a *census* every fourteen years. Each Jewish male had to return to the city of his fathers to record his name, occupation, property and family. This was done for military and tax purposes.
(v4-5) **Bethlehem was an 80-mile journey from Nazareth.** The prophet Micah in 740 B.C. predicted that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah (Micah 5:2 - *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*).

IDA ! (v6-7)

- **Mary delivered this precious Son of God in a humble manger.** Later this child will receive three gifts - *gold, frankincense, myrrh.* Gold for the King of kings! Frankincense for the Holy High Priest, who never ceases to make intercession for us! Myrrh for His sacrificial death! This is whom Mary delivered. **So will God deliver all who believe - Col 1:12-14- He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

IID A ! (v8-20)

(v8-14) Think about this five-fold Angelic declaration: (1) **Don't be afraid of God or His Son,** John writes in 1 John 4:18-19 - *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.* (2) **Good news and great joy for all people!** Great means “**megas**” or **MEGA JOY!** This is why we proclaim **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (3) **A SAVIOR** is born. Paul, the chief of sinners writes in Titus 3:4-7 - *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.* (4) **Who is Christ the Lord - CHRIST means “anointed one.”** For centuries the Jewish people had looked for a prophesied Messiah, a deliverer who would usher in a kingdom of peace and prosperity (Ps 110; Isa 32:1-8; Amos 9:13). Jesus was clearly identified as this Messiah in Peter's great confession, **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”** (Matt 16:16). (5) **Join the heavenly host and sing “Glory to God in the highest!”** Listen to how Charles Wesley put it in song. (6) **On earth peace and good will toward men - Jesus is the “Prince of Peace” - John 16:33 - These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”** Jesus did nothing but **“good will”** for all, listen to what he told John the Baptist's disciples, *“Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”* (Matt. 11:4-6)

(v15-20) Shepherds declare salvation! - These Shepherds may have been those who watched over the flocks for the temple sacrifices, but now they have met the Lamb of God and the Chief Shepherd wrapped in One. John the Baptist declared about Jesus **“Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”** Jesus said in John 10:11-16 - *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”*

IV) A ! (v21-33)

(v21a) His name is Jesus - Jehovah is Salvation!

(v21b) Law of circumcision - Origin: Covenant with Abraham- Gen. 15; Law of Moses instituted - Lev. 12:3

(v22) Law of purification (for Mary) - Lev. 12:2-6 (Male child: a total of 40 days)

(23-24) Law of presentation- Ex 13:13-16 - And all the firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. So it shall be, when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ that you shall say to him, ‘By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ “It shall be as a sign on your hand and as frontlets between your eyes, for by strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt.” (Later Jesus will say, *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”*) (Mt 5:17-18)

Insight: Listen to God's dedication to you - **Ephesians 3:19-21- Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

V) A

! (v34-38)

- Simeon means *Harkening*- What will this man hearken?

#1- That Jesus is the Christ!

#2- That Jesus is salvation for all people!

#3- That Jesus is a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles!

#4- That Jesus is the glory of your people Israel!

- What did Simeon hearken to Mary?

#1- That Jesus would be a stone for Israel- Acts 4:11-12- *This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.* " *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone? 'Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.'* **Peter declared-** Acts 4:11-12- *This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.'* *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

#2- That Jesus would be a sign for Israel- Warren Wiersbe gives an acute analogy regarding the "sign of Jesus being spoken against"- Jesus Christ is God's miracle; and yet, instead of admiring Him, the people attacked Him and spoke against Him. His birth was a miracle yet they slandered it (Jn. 8:41). They said His miracles were done in the power of Satan (Matt. 12:22-24)) and that His character was questionable (Jn. 8:48, 52; 9:16, 24). They slandered His death (Matt. 27:39-44) and lied about His resurrection (Matt. 27:62-66). Today, people are even speaking against His coming again (2Peter 3).

#3- That Jesus would be a sword for Mary- This *sword* in reference to its original meaning is that it is a large sword (like that of Goliath) & the verb context means "constantly keep on piercing." Why? "that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Mary pondered these things, like putting pieces of a puzzle together throughout her life.

Insight to our destiny - Phil 3:20-21- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

VI) A

! (v39-52)

> Jesus made a decision to grow in **SCRIPTURE and SERVICE**, whereas, to "be about His Father's business," let's do forever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:1)

One author describes Jesus as:

The Word of God became flesh . . .

The Son of God became man . . .

The Lord of All became a servant . . .

The Righteous One was made sin . . .

The Eternal One tasted death . . .

The Risen One now lives in men . . .

The Seated One is coming again!