

## JOY TO THE WORLD

--LUKE 2:1-20--

### INTRODUCTION:

Each week we have lit a candle with a word associated with it for the advent season. The first was hope and that referred to the hope of God's promise to send the promised Messiah. Next, we had the word peace which was seen in the faith of Mary and her willing surrender to God to have His will done in her life. Last week, our theme word was love and I spoke of Joseph's love for Mary, but more importantly God's love for mankind in seeing that the prophecies concerning the Messiah's lineage were fulfilled through the virgin birth. The candle we lit this morning is the candle of joy. We sing of joy at Christmas, the joy generated in our hearts because the Lord has come, God has appeared in human flesh so that we might have peace with God, believing that God came to die for us, so that our sins are forgiven, and we can stand before God in the righteousness of Jesus Christ and be accepted by God. I cannot think of anything that should give us greater joy than the good news of Jesus Christ.

### I. PRELUDE TO JOY (Luke 2:1-5)

- a. The prophet Micah proclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Messiah. (Micah 5:2)
- b. Luke begins this chapter by giving us an idea of the time period by telling us who the \_\_\_\_\_ of the day were.
- c. It was not the intention of Caesar Augustus to fulfill \_\_\_\_\_, but he did when he called for a census of the Roman Empire.

### II. INTRODUCTION OF JOY (Luke 2:6-7)

- a. As we consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ it must be noted that we do not have a lot of information on the actual birth.
- b. First, the Bible certainly teaches that Jesus was born in \_\_\_\_\_, but it does not teach that they arrived in Bethlehem just in time for Mary to deliver.

- a. Second, the Bible makes no mention of an \_\_\_\_\_ who told them that the inn was full for the night. (Luke 22:11; 10:34)
- b. Luke states that there was no room for them in the *kataluma*, which would be better translated "\_\_\_\_\_ room."
- c. Archaeologists have excavated first century homes from the Judean country, they have discovered that the \_\_\_\_\_ level served as a guest chamber while the lower level served as the living and dining areas.
- d. Born in the city of His ancestor David and placed in a feeding trough was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe.

### II. PROCLAMATION OF JOY (Luke 2:8-16)

- a. While Joseph and Mary rejoiced over the birth of God's son, God the Father also wanted to share the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son's birth.
- b. Again, the announcement comes through an \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The shepherds' reaction to this good news of great joy is belief that God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. POSTLUDE TO JOY (Luke 2:17-20)

- a. The \_\_\_\_\_ upon seeing the Savior, God's Son in the flesh could not be contained by these shepherds.
- b. Our Scripture says, "*But Mary \_\_\_\_\_ all these things, pondering them in her heart.*" (Luke 2:19, NASB95)

### CONCLUSION:

We must understand that the birth of Jesus Christ is a historical fact that fulfilled prophecy and was attested to by shepherds that clearly identify Jesus as the Messiah. This event can never be refuted. Just as the virgin birth is not an option to be considered, Jesus Christ's birth in Bethlehem is also not an option to be considered; but both are truths to be believed. We saw the importance of the virgin birth. We must understand the importance of His birth in Bethlehem. If even one of the prophecies about the first advent went unfulfilled then the truth of God's Word would have to be questioned, but every prophecy

was fulfilled. Because God was faithful and true to fulfill all the prophecies, we can know without doubt that the promises made concerning His second advent will be fulfilled as well.

With this in mind, how should we respond? Our response to this good news of great joy should be the same response that we saw in the shepherds and in Mary, a response of joyful praise from hearts filled with joy that God the Savior came to save us from our sins and to give us peace with God through our faith in Him and His death, burial, and resurrection for us. Why do we celebrate Christmas, as a remembrance of God taking on human flesh to die for sinful mankind and make it possible for man to be made acceptable to God again, and in hopeful anticipation of His second advent.