

# SET FREE!

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December 2010

## Good Tidings



## OF GREAT JOY

Luke 2:8-14 (NKJV)

***<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then***

***the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"***

The angel said, "***I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.***"

He wasn't just saying, "Have a nice day eh!" He was talking about the birth of the Saviour.

### Verse 11

***For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***

He did not say that this baby was born "unto God"; he said he is born unto you.

**Jesus was born unto you.**

It's like when a couple have kids, they are born unto them, not to the neighbours but to them.

**"Jesus was born unto me!"**

Jesus was born unto all of us. Not to just be a God over us, not just to be a symbol of a creed or a religion. He was given to us so that we could come back into fellowship with God the Father. Jesus came to **set us free** by restoring the relationship between God and man that was

broken through Adam's sin of rebellion.

***"Good tidings of great joy".***

In other words, "I give you good news because the joy is back". ***"neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*** (Nehemiah 8:10) The angel was saying that the strength is back. The strength of the Lord is back in the earth and He is born UNTO you.

#### **Verses 13-14**

***<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:  
<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"***

In these verses, the angels were not speaking to the shepherds, now they were speaking to God. They were praising Him. They were praising him for the

***"peace on earth goodwill toward men".***

The angels were praising God for the peace and goodwill that had come to earth - not just goodwill **between** men - the angels were praising God because of the goodwill **TOWARD** men. Jesus' birth meant peace between God and mankind.

You hear people say, "If Jesus meant to bring peace on earth, where is it all? There certainly isn't peace on earth and not very much goodwill between men".

Remember, the angels didn't say: "Peace on earth goodwill **BETWEEN** men", they said **TOWARD** men.

The arrival of Jesus meant that there was peace offered from God to mankind.

God said, "As far as I am concerned, there is peace between heaven and earth." No man need be alienated from the

God that created him any longer. As far as God is concerned, there is peace.

**The war is over!  
We are set free!**

A famous author once said that there is a big conflict going on between God and the devil, and that we are looking forward to the day it ceases. Many in the church today, think that this is true. But it isn't true. There is no fight going on between God and the devil. The war is over! Jesus is the Victor! He destroyed the enemy's power to wage war.

As far as God is concerned today, there is peace. It's a peace that passes all understanding. A person can be standing in the midst of death, sin, sickness and every kind of diabolical thing on the face of the earth; but when they find Jesus the Christ, the peace comes, and the war is over.

This is something that we sometimes lose sight of, the significance of our having been born again. The day you accepted Jesus as your Lord, your spirit was reborn. The Holy Spirit “overshadowed” you and performed a spiritual creation, similar to what happened to Mary in the physical realm. [Luke 1:35 *The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:*]

Mary brought forth a **physical** child of God; when you were born again, you were born as a **spiritual** child of God.

**He’s not a little baby any more.**

The manger is empty, so let’s not worship there. For that matter the cross is empty too, Jesus isn’t on it either. And while we are looking, we can rejoice that the tomb is also empty, for He has risen. It’s not that these places have

no significance, for truly they do, but they are all milestones that lead to the fullness of salvation.

So where do we worship? Where is Jesus today?

**Ephesians 1:20** says that God the Father, *“raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”*

Most people are comfortable celebrating Christmas, because a cute little baby in a manger seems less portentous than reckoning with an empty tomb and a risen Lord.

He is Immanuel, God with us, the One who brought about our salvation, but He is also the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is the One to whom every knee must bow and proclaim that He is Lord.

In the next few days we will be celebrating the goodness of God toward us, rejoicing at **the gift of life** that was sent to us in the form of Jesus our Lord.

He has brought us the peace that passes all understanding, the miracle of the new birth.

All of this is because Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Today the manger is empty, the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, but praise God the Throne is occupied. Jesus is our risen Lord and we are seated with Him next to our Father God.

**Jesus came to bring** *“peace on earth, goodwill toward men”*.

**What a time to celebrate and to enjoy the freedom that we have** *“in Christ Jesus.”*

**It’s a time of** *“good tidings of great joy”*.