

**“good news of great joy”**

**Christmas 2016**

**Luke 2:1-21**

# **“good news of great joy”**

## **Luke 2:1-7**

**1** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

**2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to his own town to register.

**4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,

**7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was room for them in the inn.

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**2 Chronicles 7:17-18**

**17** “As for you, if you walk before me as David your father did, and do all I command, and observe my decrees and laws, **18** I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father when I said, ‘You shall never fail to have a man to rule over Israel.’”

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**Micah 5:2**

**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the  
clans of Judah, out of you will  
come for me one who will be ruler  
over Israel, whose origins are  
from of old, from ancient times.”**

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**Isaiah 11:1, 10**

**1** A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**10** In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

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**Jeremiah 33:15**

**“ ‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land.**



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**Ezekiel 37:24**

**“ ‘My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees.**

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**Hosea 3:5**

**Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.**

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**“...the surroundings were dark and dirty. This was not the atmosphere the Jews expected as the birthplace of the Messiah King. They thought their promised Messiah would be born in royal surroundings.”**

**NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible**

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**Luke 2:8-14**

**8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

**11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

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**“Peace is not assured to all, but only those pleasing to God-the objects of His good pleasure. The roman world was experiencing the Pax Romana, marked by external tranquility. But the angels proclaimed a deeper, more lasting peace than that-a peace of mind and soul made possible by the Savior. Peace with God is received by faith in Christ, and it is on believers that “is favor rests.”**

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**Romans 5:1**

**Therefore, since we have been  
justified through faith, we  
have peace with God through  
our Lord Jesus Christ**

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## **Luke 2:15-20**

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

**16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.



**17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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**“The shepherds decide to take a look at what God is doing. They find the child in the manger, just as the angel has said. Once again God is shown to keep His word. The shepherds share their story with those present. They respond with obedience and cannot contain themselves from testifying to what God has done in making Jesus’ presence evident to them.”**

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**21** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

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**[Verse 21 demonstrates that]  
“Jesus’ family roots are steeped  
in piety and faithfulness.”**

**Darrell Bock**

# Applications

- **Glorify in God's heart and character**
- **We should be amazed as the shepherds were**
- **We must tell all about Jesus as the shepherds did**

# Final Thoughts

**“The King, the Son of David, the Lord, the Savior was sent from heaven to identify with us; to walk with us; die for us; raised for us; and to relate to us-that is the story of Jesus, a story worthy of praise and worthy to be told.”**

**Darrell Bock**

# Final Thoughts

## Hebrews 1:1-3

**1** In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,  
**2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

**3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.**