

Pwrpt 1

JOY to the World! The Lord is Come!

Luke 2:10

(BBC-25/12/20)

Intro:

Pwrpt 2- Read: Mt.1:18-25

Pwrpt 3- Read Lk.2:8-14

Luke 2:10- ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Song: Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her king

Pwrpt 4

Joy, praise and celebration kick off Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Joy and rejoicing permeate this gospel- it is truly Good News! Jesus is truly good news! Mt.1:21- ²¹ *She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*"

Angelic announcements, songs and poems proliferate this time of Jesus' birth.

The anticipation that something incredibly wonderful is about to happen builds in intensity until the sky is lit up and the heavens erupt in a choir of angelic voices.

The Gospel of Luke starts out with the appearance of the angel of the Lord appearing to a priest named Zechariah telling him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to a son who would prepare people for the coming of the Lord. = John the Baptist

Just 26 more verses into Luke's gospel we realise something monumental is about to happen as the angel Gabriel is sent from God himself to Nazareth, a backwater town in Israel, to make an announcement to an unknown Jewish girl. She is told, "...*behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* ³² *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,* ³³ *and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.*" (Lk.1:31-33)

Later we read that when the pregnant Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, Elizabeth's baby leaps in her womb for joy at Jesus' presence. At this time Mary gushes forth a song of praise concerning the significance of this 'saviour' that was within her womb. This one conceived in her by God himself who would set this broken and hurting world right again.

John the Baptist is born first, and his father, filled with the Holy Spirit, bursts forth with a poem telling how God was fulfilling his promise of a deliverer from the family of David...how his son would be the prophet to the Most High God.

Then Jesus is born and an angel makes an appearance once again, this time to shepherds who were watching their flocks by night. 'The glory of the Lord shone around them' and the angel said, "*Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people...*," and this is the good news, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* ¹² *And this will be a sign for you: you will find a*

baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And then it tells us a multitude of heavenly host appeared praising God and saying,

Pwrpt 5

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King...

SO WHY ALL THE JOY? WHY ALL THE CELEBRATION?

Because this promised one- this Jesus- would bring peace between God and man. Something that until this time was just a far-off promise. In Jesus it became reality.

For thousands of years people had tried and failed to make peace with God...to reach his perfect standard. Each person who ever lived realized that they were deeply flawed and needed outside intervention to make them acceptable to God.

Then unto us a child is born...the God-man Jesus.

- The one who would live a sinless life and take the death penalty on himself for us on the cross.
- This same one would rise again to give a new clean life to all those who entrusted themselves to him

Pwrpt 6

Rom.5:1- *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- This is 'good news for all people' who respond in faith

Jn.1:12- ***But to all who did receive him**, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

HAVE YOU? WHAT BETTER DAY TO HAVE YOUR SPIRITUAL BIRTHDAY, THEN ON JESUS' BIRTHDAY?