

THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE

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Text: Luke 2:1-18

family
city
or
family
ancestor
home
childbirth
shepherds
in the
field

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Beth-lehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Beth-lehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” (Luke 2:1-18)

INTRODUCTION

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

1. THE Dawn OF GRACE

A. Redemption Dawned Through

His poverty

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for you sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)

Jesus
born into
poor
family

B. Redemption Dawned through

His humility (v. 4-7)

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

Jesus
born in
animal
stable

CAME TO BETHLEHEM

BORN IN A STABLE

Jesus put
on form of
a servant

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:
6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be
equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and
took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the
likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he
humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the
death of the cross." (Philippians 2:5-8)

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto,
but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."
(Mark 10:45)

God revealed
as human-
Jesus

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of
angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world,
received up into glory." (1 Timothy 3:16)

2. THE Declaration OF GRACE (v. 8-18)

A. The Name of Grace (v. 11)

→ SAVIOR - means person who delivers

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which
was lost." (Luke 19:10)

Jesus frees
person from
sin

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his
name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."
(Matthew 1:21)

salvation
saved from
my sins

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid:
for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also
is become my salvation." (Isaiah 12:2)

only God lives
able to save
any person

"And there is no God else beside me; a just God and a
Saviour; there is none beside me. 22 Look unto me, and be
ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is
none else." (Isaiah 45:21-22)

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith,
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the
world." (John 1:29)

"Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent
him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his
iniquities." (Acts 3:26)

"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. 23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:" (Acts 13:22-23)

→ CHRIST

rulers
oppose
God

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed..." (Psalm 2:2)

But God...

"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." (Psalm 2:6-7)

→ Christ
- promised
Messiah

"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

"Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ." (Acts 17:3)

→ THE LORD

Jesus
Christ
is Lord

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom." (Hebrews 1:8)

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:11)

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (Revelation 19:16)

B. The place of Grace (v. 12)

in Bethlehem
a very
small
town

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." (Micah 5:2)

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" (Romans 3:24)

-ponder - means to think about

3. THE Deliberation OF GRACE

"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."
(Luke 2:19)

A. The words of Gabriel (Luke 1)

Jesus will
fulfill promise
of David's
throne
forever

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." (Luke 1:30-33)

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

B. The wonder of Birth (v. 6-7)

C. The worship of Christ (v. 15-19)

THE SHEPHERDS CAME TO WORSHIP

THE WISE MEN VISIT TO WORSHIP THE KING

Shepherds
see Jesus

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way." (Matthew 2:11-12)

Wise men
worship
baby Jesus

D. The work of Christ

IN THE TEMPLE AT TWELVE

"And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart." (Luke 2:51)

"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. 48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. 49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? 50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them." (Luke 2:47-50)

Jesus in
the temple

- Even Joseph & Mary did not understand Jesus being about His heavenly Father's business

