



## NOW THAT JESUS HAS COME, WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <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!”** <sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, **“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”** <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (Luke 2:1-20)

What joy and excitement there must have been on that early morning when Mary delivered her first-born child, The Christ. I am certain that Joseph rejoiced along with Mary, not only because the child was born, moreover because The Christ / The Messiah was now here to deliver the people as God had promised.

The angels rejoiced because of The Christ. The angels celebrated the Savior, who is Christ the Lord. They celebrated the long awaited coming of the Messiah who would save and deliver God's people.

All of heaven rejoiced as God's perfect plan for salvation was born. The heavenly hosts sang, *“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”* They sang and rejoiced, giving glory to God for the birth of the Son of God and beginning of salvation's plan for humanity.

The shepherds rejoiced because of The Christ. After hearing the proclamation of the angel and the heavenly hosts, they excitedly went to Bethlehem to see for themselves what the lord had revealed to them. After seeing Jesus, they returned, glorifying God and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen.

How about you? Have you, like the angel, rejoiced because of Jesus, the Christ, who has come to save deliver us? Have you, like the heavenly hosts, sang, *“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”* Have you sang and rejoiced, giving glory to God for the birth of the Son of God and the fulfilling of salvation's plan for humanity? Have you, like the shepherds, desired to see Jesus for yourself? And, after seeing Jesus for yourself, glorified and praised God for what you have seen and heard?

Have you found pause and cause to rejoice over the birth of The Christ / The Messiah? Yes, Jesus was born into this world, and desires to be born into your life. If you allow Jesus to be born into your life, like Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, your life will never be the same... **I Pray That You Let Jesus In.**

## WORK FOR THE WEEK

### DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **James 1:22**

### DECEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

“Just being there is not enough”

Dr. Larry Murphy

### TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

What keeps me from persisting in pursuing success after being unsuccessful? \_\_\_\_\_

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When I remain persistent in my faith to pursue success, Jesus' power will be released \_\_\_\_\_

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### FOR THE YOUTH

How do you feel when you win? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you feel when you lose? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been continually unsuccessful at something? How did it make you feel? Who did you blame for not being successful? \_\_\_\_\_

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