

Merry Christmas from Pastor Frank Davis and the Study Hour Family

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016-2017

THEME: C REATION AND SALVATION

UNIT ONE – THE SAVIOUR IS BORN

“A MOMENTOUS MOMENT TO REJOICE AND WORSHIP CHRIST THE KING”



Sunday School Lesson No. IV, December 25, 2016
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Luke 2:8-20

Motto Text: Luke 2:11, 20, *“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.”*

Required Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Reliable Resources: Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington;
Standard Lesson Commentary; Union Gospel Press

Expositor and Illuminator; Rightly Dividing Luke by E. L. Bynum; Logos Bible Software; Life Application Bible (NIV); UMI Precepts for Living; Word Search 10 Electronic Library

LESSON INTRODUCTION

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing!” Beloved, this should have been the song on the hearts and lips of the entire universe when the Saviour was born, for it was and still is, **“A Momentous Moment to Rejoice and Worship Christ the King.”** Our lesson this week calls for all who would hear to rejoice in the Saviour’s Birth! Yet many in our modern society miss the real meaning of the message. They are borrowing money they can’t afford to pay back, maxing out credit cards, robbing and stealing from others and cheating themselves for electronic gadgets, trinkets and expensive toys! But when we focus on the reason for this season, it should be spelled **Christmas**, with the focus on **CHRIST**! For as a preacher once said, *“You can’t spell **Christmas** without **CHRIST**!”* Let us review the biblical narrative of the Christmas story as told from the pen of St. Luke, and experience **“A Momentous Moment to Rejoice and Worship Christ the King.”** (Read Luke 2:1-20).

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Sovereign Control. Luke 2:1-3**
- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Scriptural Concern. Luke 2:4-7**
- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Diverse Congregation. Luke 2:8-10**
- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Distinct Confirmation. Luke 2:11-12**
- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Own Act of Congratulations. Luke 2:13-14**
- **Rejoice and Worship for God’s Shepherds’ Communication. Luke 2:15-18, 20**
- **Rejoice and Worship God for Mary, His Special Choice. Luke 2:19**

OUTLINE

I. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Sovereign Control. Luke 2:1-3

Luke opens by helping us understand that the birth of the Saviour was under God’s sovereign control over the affairs of men. Luke brings history into focus as he speaks of figures such as Caesar Augustus and Cyrenius being governor of Syria. People think that they are controlling their lives without God’s intervention, but beloved, God’s sovereign hand is and always has been present in the affairs of mankind! Worship and rejoice beloved, because the birth of the Saviour is historically documented! Why? Because of God’s sovereign control over the affairs of men!

II. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Scriptural Concern. Luke 2:4-7

The Romans’ taxation here was really a census, conducted about every 14 years to survey the population for military and census taxation purposes. Every male had to register in the place of his nativity. God used this to accomplish His purpose in at least three areas concerning the fulfillment of prophecy in the birth of His Son! Let us...

A. Rejoice for Christ being born in the right place. vs. 4-5

Micah 5:2, *“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.”*

B. Rejoice for Christ being born at the right time. vs. 6

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

C. Rejoice for Christ being born under the right circumstances. vs. 7

Isaiah 42:1-3, *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.”* Beloved, none of these great things would have happened if God had not consented!

III. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Diverse Congregation. Luke 2:8-10

God overviews His congregation in these verses – angels representing the heavenly divine, and the shepherds representing the earth’s disenfranchised. *“For God so loved the world...”* These shepherds may have been keepers of the sacrificial animals of the temple...on guard day and night, not able to enjoy all the acts of corporate worship because they were considered ceremonially unclean, but truly playing a very important role. The angels were God’s special messengers dispatched with divine news to earth’s humble congregants. *“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”* When one receives the heavenly message of hope, it is good news from a far country! This good news is the Gospel truth, beloved. Now are you a part of God’s divinely diverse congregation? John 1:12 tells us, *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”* Truly the birth of the Saviour is Good News that is available to all who would receive it! *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-30.

IV. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Distinct Confirmation. Luke 2:11-12

While the shepherds were comforted from their present fears by the angels, they also were given distinct confirmation of where to find the Saviour at His birth, and how they would recognize Him! Thank God for His GPS!

A. They would find Him in David’s city of his nativity, Bethlehem. vs. 11

B. They would find Him wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. vs. 12

These were strips that were also used for bandages, and to wrap the dead for their burial; now were wrapped around the child to secure Him, demonstrating an act of love, and was not unusual. But a newborn baby lying in an animal trough or manger was quite an unusual sight. Truly beloved, this would be a distinct confirmation of the Christ child!

V. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Own Act of Congratulations. Luke 2:13-14

It is customary for a modern father to light up and give out cigars after the birth of his child. This congratulatory act by human fathers is dwarfed by the rejoicing of God’s angelic hosts that lit up the heavens! The shout and declaration of the angels should teach us the importance of the Saviour’s birth! (*“Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!”*)

VI. Rejoice and Worship for God’s Shepherds’ Communication. Luke 2:15-18, 20

They heard the Word, they saw the Word, they worshipped the Word and they shared the Word! Let us do likewise!

VII. Rejoice and Worship God for Mary, His Special Choice. Luke 2:19

Mary continues to teach us how to humbly surrender and worship the wondrous person of The Almighty God through total submission, *“...be it unto me according to Thy word.”* Luke 1:38.

CLOSING

My beloved, the exclamation of the angelic host and the response of the shepherds and Mary should direct us to give praise and accolades unto our God for His Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ! But as I close beloved, don’t only rejoice at the Saviour’s cradle, but rejoice in His cause, rejoice in His Cross, rejoice in the empty crypt and His great commission! Rejoice at the fact that Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven and is seated in the seat of intercession for you and me. And one day He is coming back again! *“Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!”*

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Looking Ahead: January 1, 2017 Psalm 33:1-9



Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.