

CHRISTMAS EVE

{Monday, December 24, 2018 A.D.}

Luke 2:1-20

¹ Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵ in order to register along with **Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.**

⁶ While they were there, **the days were completed** for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸ In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ **And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them;** and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, **I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;** ¹¹ for **today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** ¹² **This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.** ¹³ And **suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,** ¹⁴ **"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."**

¹⁵ When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ **The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.**

John 1:1-14

¹ **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** ² He was in the beginning with God.

³ **All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**

⁴ **In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.** ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

⁶ There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.

⁹ **There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**

¹⁰ **He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.** ¹¹ **He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³ **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

¹⁴ **And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 8:12

¹² Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying,

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have **the Light of life.**"

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