

HOW GREAT IS YOUR JOY?

Luke 2:10-11

INTRO: Please turn your Bibles, or turn them on, to Luke chapter 2. Luke is the 3 book of the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, then LUKE.

Would you agree with me that the world is running a little low on JOY these days? We talk about Joy, we all desire Joy, but very few actually seem to have Joy. It's that elusive little thing that is always just out of reach. And this is no new problem. It has always been that way. God knows we struggle in this area. So, a little over two thousand years ago, He did something about it. He wrapped up a little bundle of Joy and sent Him to earth. What an extremely God thing to do! I LOVE IT!

Read with me please, just two verses of the Christmas story as recorded by Dr. Luke...

Luke 2:10-11 *"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. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"*

I'm sure you are very familiar with those verses. I hope they mean as much to you as they do to me. Today, for my subject, I want to ask a question; HOW GREAT IS YOUR JOY? Think about the question. If you were taking part in a survey and was asked on a scale of 1-10 what was your level of Joy, 1 being NO JOY and 10 being GREAT JOY, how would you answer? Would you say, IDK, maybe a 6 or 7. Or maybe a 3, or even a 1. When the angel said, *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."*, You were included in that!

Notice with me...

I) THE PROMISE OF JOY: v 10 *"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.'"*

John MacArthur - The good news the angel proclaimed is for all the people. Laos (people) refers first to Israel, since "salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22; cf. Ro 1:16). But the promise of salvation is not for them only. Praising God after seeing the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon said, *"For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel"* (Lk 2:30-32).

John 10:10 *"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."*

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*

1 Timothy 1:15 *"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*

To know the fulfillment of this promise, you must first know...

II) THE PERSON OF JOY: v 11 *"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*

I) THE PROMISE OF JOY: v 10 “

II) THE PERSON OF JOY: v 11 CONTINUED Do not miss the phrase for you - You is in the plural. Yes, Jesus came to the shepherds, to Israel, but also to redeem all humanity and for you dear reader. This personalizes this Good News of a Savior who in the crib had open arms just as He did on the Cross! God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son to be born for you, for any and all who will call upon the Name Jesus, Savior, Christ, Lord!

V 11 “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

“Savior” (Gr Soter, So'-tare) refers to the agent of salvation or deliverance, the one who rescues, delivers, saves and preserves and in the case of Jesus, specifically rescue and deliverance from sin's penalty, sin's power and in glory from sin's presence and sin's pleasure

Christ the Lord - This specific title surprisingly is only here in the NT. The angel clearly tells them the Messiah has come and He is Lord or God.

Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Notice lastly...

III) THE PROVISION OF JOY: v 10 “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.”

There's no reason to be afraid, when Joy is in the house!

CONCLUSION: