

THE CHRISTMAS SERIES *of* 2021

THE WONDER, CELEBRATION, ADORATION AND GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD, THE CHRISTMAS MESSIAH.

The Gospel According to Luke 2:6-14

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH-524

Sunday, December 12, 2021

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Wonder” – Part 1

The Celebration, Adoration and Wonder of The Advent of The Coming
of The Son of God - Jesus Christ God’s Literal Gift To Man.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Salvation, Christmas, Faith, Hope, Love, Worship

Luke 2:6-14

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to 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 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. :9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. :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. :11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.... ..:12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a 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, goodwill toward men!”

Many Years Ago (1965) I saw for the first time a Christmas movie titled
“THE GREATEST STORY EVERY TOLD” Directed by George Stevens,
Starring Charleston Heston and others...

**There’s only one thing wrong with the entire production,
The Christmas Message, the account of Jesus’ Birth - is not the
greatest story ever told, stories are things told by people and are
subject to wear and tear as the years go by. They can be made
up or added to. Stories can fade away with time.**

The God of the Bible is not in the business of telling stories!

2 Peter 1:16

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

St. John 1:1-3

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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

There is the self-funded research of Theophilus in which Luke commissioned to interview those who were either eyewitness or the knew Jesus Christ personally - personal account

Acts 1:1-3

The former account I (Luke) made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs

infallible proofs

tek'merion

perpetual markers, constant identifiers, abundant

facts, overwhelming evidence, *(all with the intent to testify under oath.)* – The Case for Jesus Christ is God's undeniable ADVENT of the truth!

Luke 1:26-31

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, *"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"* :29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS."*

“Dear Joseph – You know I love you, but I need you to listen to me right now. I’m pregnant, - You know I love you, right, but cheer up, I’m still a virgin. Something’s happened to me, to us – You know I love you, right – but I need you to believe me right now.”

These two people were devoted to God – Good Jewish people, who knew the Old Testament Scriptures probably better than we do. I wonder if Mary wasn’t a bit tempted to ask Joseph if he’d give her a little devotion from the Bible – say from Isaiah chapter 7 especially around verse 14.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign (wonder): Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

As Jews they knew this scripture was regarding the Messiah who was to come.

As descendants of the lineage of King David, both knew that the coming Messiah was personal for them.

As individuals could these events be happening to them?

The Wonder Of

1.) The Wonder of His word

I think it’s only fair to announce to you today that, this message is solely based upon what the Bible says about – what we call Christmas...

someone might say...

“I have a hard time believing in Christmas”

Consider the Argument for the Existence of God, It is actually a natural assumption born out from observation.

Example: Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, :2 has in these last days spoken to us **by His Son**,

Micah 5:2

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”

Charles Wesley’s Hymn Shouts

“Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies with
the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father (governor over time and eternity), Prince of Peace.

Romans 1:2-4

God promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, (The Old Testament) :3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, :4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

John 21:24-25

This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. :25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

The Wonder Of

2.) The Wonder of His power

**I do not mean so much his power to create or to destroy.
I do not want to speak to His power to move the heavens and the earth...**

“I’m talking about his power to hear us, to see us, to know us, to immediately and always be aware of us and what concerns us – His power to step in and rescue us - ”

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining It is the night of the dear Savior's birth! - Long lay the world in sin and error pining Till He Appear'd and the soul felt its worth. - A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Expound upon the evidence of God’s power to...

PRE-substantiate (prophecy of) the revelation of Jesus’ birth.

PRE-substantiate (prophecy of) the revelation of Jesus’ death.

PRE-substantiate (prophecy of) the revelation of Jesus’ resurrection.

PRE-substantiate (prophecy of) the revelation of Jesus’ return.

HIS POWER TO RESCUE, SAVE AND SAY IT TO OUR FACES...

Romans 3:23

For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Again, Charles Wesley’s Sings

“Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth”

Jesus Came Bearing Gifts

John 3:1-17

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” :3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” :4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” :5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the

Spirit.” :9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?” :10 Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? 11 Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Wonder Of

3.) The Wonder of His grace

Luke 2:12

And this will be the sign to you:
You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

**The unusual sign, a wonder – the baby will be wrapped in swaddling strips...
“in a feed trough for animals.”**

Micah 4:8

And you, O tower Of The Flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.”

Alfred Edersheim, points out that Micah 4:8, is a biblical reference to the Tower, as a prophecy indicating that the Messiah would be revealed from the "Tower of the Flock" (Migdal Eder) which is on the edge of the village town of Bethlehem, southeast of Jerusalem.

These signs pointed the shepherds to the Tower of the Flock. The Tower of the Flock overlooked the fields of Bethlehem in which the Levitical shepherds kept their flocks for the Temple sacrifices. When an ewe was about to give birth, it was taken to the Tower. The newborn lambs were placed in a manger, a prepared clean stone bed, to be examined with swaddling clothes, white linens

which would be used to find any blemishes. Because the sacrifices had to be without spot or blemish, much care was taken to make sure that the lambs were free of any infirmities. There was only one place in Bethlehem that had manger and swaddling clothes - the Tower of the Flock. The shepherds immediately recognized the signs as these were implements that they were familiar with. They would have no problem finding the babe since they knew exactly where He was.

How incredible is it that the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) was born in the exact place that the sacrificial lambs for the Temple were born? Just as the Temple lambs had to be spotless, so He had to be without fault to take our sin upon Him. Christ was indeed the perfect Lamb of God given to us.

Luke 2:10

I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!" **Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with healing in His wings Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth** Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

1 Timothy 2:4-6

It is God who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **:5** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, **:6** who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in **due** time,

1 John 4:9-11

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, (that's called Christmas – but why?) that we might live through Him. **10** In this - is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the atoning one, the lid) for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

End of Study

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