



CHRISTMAS IS NOT A FEELING

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THE REAL CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

It was important at Christmas time who was ruling. It was real history. It is not an allegory or a fairy tale. In this time Cesar Augustus called himself a god. Even in Israel they had a self-appointed king called Herodes. Even their priesthood was corrupted.

For more than 400 years these people that loved God had not heard from Him. They were just waiting. That was the context when Jesus was being born.

Cesar called for a censor.

Luke 2:3-5 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 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, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

Mary and Joseph had to shelter in a cave.

*Luke 2:6-7 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 cloths**, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

This is God coming in the form of Jesus. This was something in the natural that wasn't in any way dramatic.

Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Around Bethlehem there were always *shepherds that raised the sheep and lambs for the temple sacrifices*. Shepherds who knew how to look after something. They are committed to it. They are doing their job even at night.

*Luke 2:9 And **behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them**, and they were greatly afraid.*

The shepherd in that time knew daytime or the night. The Glory is very bright. And this light has a substance to it. Suddenly their definition of darkness was changed forever. Darkness has not a hold of them anymore.

*Luke 2:10-12 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 cloths, lying in a manger.**"*

This light is like daylight. And then they hear the voice of an angel. The deliverer is born. The son of God, He is born today in the city of David. The shepherds hear that He is born.

*Luke 2:13-14 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!"***

Heavenly hosts = a garrison of heaven's army. They say...

➡ **THE KING has been BORN TODAY**

➡ And **HIS GOVERNMENT IS HERE TODAY**

The sign will be the baby born. And the government will be on His shoulders.

THIS WAS NOT JUST A FEELING—THIS WAS **LIGHT** PIERCING DARKNESS **!!**

*Luke 2:15-16 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.**” 16 And **they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger***

The word “thing” (15) in Greek was the word “*RHEMA*” = the NOW Word.

👉 They came with haste. They searched till they found it.

These shepherds when they heard this word, they searched it out!

These shepherds also raised the *lambs for passover*. These shepherds knew that when these lambs were born, *they would wrap them into swaddling cloths* and they would put them in the mangers so that the little lambs would not hurt themselves and get a blemish on them. And they knew that they had to do that because *those lambs were set apart for a holy purpose*. Those lambs were offered at the Passover and it all had to do with taking away the sins of Israel under the law.

So when they come and they see this baby *wrapped in the swaddling cloths in a manger*, — they probably don’t recognize in that moment that He is the lamb that will take away the sins of the world — *but they recognize that a child that is wrapped like this in a manger has a HOLY PURPOSE and is SET APART*. And that is enough for them to perceive that what the angel said was true.

*Luke 2:17 Now when they had seen Him, **they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.***

The minute they saw it, they made it widely known. The SAVIOR has been born. It’s CHRISTMAS!

EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED!

Nothing in the natural had changed for them. Had their job changed? Had their government changed in the natural? No. BUT EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED!

👉 Their life had been reframed by the light of the Glory that had come. 👉 They now knew that there was a **LIGHT** that could **PUSH BACK DARKNESS** and keep it away.

They were not waiting anymore. *They knew their KING has come*. He is here.

*Luke 2:18-20 And **all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.** 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.*

CHRISTMAS IS NOT A FEELING that something good is going to happen.

CHRISTMAS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE KING OF KINGS HAS COME. And that *there is ANOTHER GOVERNMENT*. And of the increase of His government there shall be no end. And of His peace shall be no end. *CHRISTMAS is an ANNOUNCEMENT that however dark the world might be, no matter how dark your world might be right now, no matter how it’s pressing against you, the LIGHT of heaven will pierce it and the LIGHT of heaven can push it back.* And the darkness has never and will never put out the light. **You have a hope wherever you are— LIGHT has come.** You have a hope wherever you are. Even if your nation is at war, there is hope because **LIGHT HAS COME**. That **LIGHT** is on the inside of us. We are the **CARRIERS OF LIGHT**. We are the ones that stand in dark places and push back with the light. - That’s why we put up Christmas lights—to push back the darkness! We are making a statement: **THE LIGHT IS HERE** and the darkness will never put it out!—We need to *get intentional about Christmas*. **Let the light come to the darkest of places.**

Every time we say **MERRY CHRISTMAS** in a store we’re declaring **HOPE** over them,

“THERE IS A SAVIOR WHO’S BEEN BORN”

“MERRY CHRISTMAS—wherever you are, there is LIFE for you in this season.

CHRISTMAS IS NOT A FEELING
CHRISTMAS IS A DECLARATION OF THE KING OF LIGHT
WHO HAS COME AND **PUSHED BACK DARKNESS**

👉 CHRISTMAS is the time where we declare, “Oh, God, You are our Savior. You brought us out of darkness and You brought us into Your glorious light.”

👉 CHRISTMAS is the time where **we celebrate that JESUS laid down His LIFE TO SAVE US.**

👉 CHRISTMAS is the time where we say,

“God, we know You came and You started this 2000 years ago and You’re coming again.

But until the day You come...

➡ **We’re going to let our light shine, we’re going to declare WHO YOU ARE**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

And of the increase of HIS GOVERNMENT

and of HIS KINGDOM there shall be no end

DECLARATION over this House

*THE LIGHT HAS COME. DARKNESS HAS BEEN PUSHED BACK, away from you
No matter what has come against you, no matter what might be trying to come against you,
the Lord of LIGHT IS PRESENT and He is pushing back the darkness.*

*And I want to thank You God, we declare the GOVERNMENT and the LORDSHIP OF JESUS
over each and every family in this place.*

We thank You God that we are a victorious people.

We thank You God in this Christmas that we are singing

“Joy to the world, the LORD HAS COME. Let earth receive her KING.”

*Lord, we declare it today, everywhere we go we begin to declare it that
CHRISTMAS CHANGED THE WORLD. And Christmas continues to change the world.
And will continue to change the world until we see Him appear at that day.*

*And I pray over each and everyone of us that this CHRISTMAS would be the most LIGHT-
filled, the most powerful*

That this CHRISTMAS would be a Christmas where you would see GOD MOVE in your life.

That you would SEE the things that He has spoken to you.

*That in this CHRISTMAS we would lay hold of the RHEMA-Word that He has already spoken
to us.*

*That we would perceive it and we would know, and we would testify of the GOODNESS and
the GREATNESS of our GOD.*

And may we all have the merriest and the most blessed of Christmases.

And I pray this in Jesus’s name. AMEN.