

Exceedingly Abundant JOY ~ Matthew 2:1-12

→Scripture Reading Luke 1:43-4, 46-49, Lk. 2:10-11 Mt. 2:10-11

INTRODUCTION

→Pictures

Let the REJOICING Begin ~ Luke 1:42-55

⁴² Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. ⁴³ Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? ⁴⁴ When I heard your greeting, **the baby in my womb jumped for JOY.** ⁴⁵ You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said. (NLT)

⁴⁶ Mary responded, "Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. ⁴⁷ How my spirit **REJOICES in God my Savior.** ⁴⁸ For He took notice of His lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For the Mighty One is holy, and He has done great things for me. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear Him. ⁵¹ His mighty arm has done tremendous things! He has scattered the proud and haughty ones. ⁵² He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel and remembered to be merciful. ⁵⁵ For **He made this PROMISE** to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children FOREVER. (NLT)

MARY... PTW

- BELIEVED what Gabriel said
- SUBMITTED to God
- ACTED on what she heard

Luke 2:9-11 (NLT) ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them... ..They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring **GREAT JOY to ALL people.** ¹¹ The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!

IMPLICATION

→God chose the OPPOSITE of what the World would Choose

⁴⁷ How my spirit **REJOICES in God my Savior.** ⁴⁸ For He took notice of His lowly servant girl

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (HCS) Brothers, consider your calling: Not many are wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. ²⁷ Instead, God has chosen what is FOOLISH in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is WEAK in the world to shame the strong.

²⁸ God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world - what is viewed as nothing to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, ²⁹ so that NO ONE can BOAST in His presence.

Wise Men from the East ~ Matthew 2:1-12

¹ AFTER Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been BORN king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them WHERE the CHRIST was to be born. ⁵ In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel." ⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the EXACT time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him." ⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped OVER the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of frankincense and of myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream NOT to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

These Verses Show the... HNT

- birth of Jesus had WORLDWIDE impact
- Messiah was a GIFT from God to ALL NATIONS
- CONTRAST Jewish priests and these Gentile Noblemen

IMPLICATIONS

➔What a CONTRAST between Religious Leaders, Priest and Wisemen

¹⁰ When they saw the star, **they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.** (ESV)

The Magi Were Men Who... gotquestions.org

- Read and BELIEVED God's Word
- SOUGHT the King of the Jews
- Recognized the WORTH of Christ
- HUMBLISHED themselves to Worship Jesus
- OBEYED God rather than man

TAKE AWAY ??

➔WORSHIP is a lot More than just Singing or FEELING Something

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were **FILLED with JOY.** ¹¹ They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they **bowed down and WORSHIPED him...**(NLT)