

Message of Great JOY ~ Luke 2:8-20

Scripture Reading Is. 9:2-3, Zech. 9:9, Luke 2:8-10

INTRODUCTION

- At the end of WW2
- Kansas City Royals
- Detroit Red Wings
- Jesus riding on a donkey

The PROMISE of JOY ~ Isaiah 9:2-3, Zechariah 9:9

Isaiah 9:2-3 (NIV) The people walking in darkness have seen a great LIGHT; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their JOY; they REJOICE before You as people rejoice at the harvest...

John 1:9 (NIV) The TRUE light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

John 8:12 (NIV) ...I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

³ YOU have enlarged the nation and INCREASED their JOY; they REJOICE before You as people rejoice at the harvest...

The triumph of God's GRACE over our depressing failures is JOY unspeakable and full of glory forever. PTW

Zechariah 9:9 (NIV) REJOICE greatly, O Daughter of Zion. Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem. See, YOUR King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

IMPLICATIONS

⁹ REJOICE, O people of Zion! SHOUT in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! LOOK, your King is coming to you... (NLT)

Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: **Jesus Christ was BORN for this.**
He hath opened the heavenly door, And man is blessed evermore.

Good Christian men, rejoice, With heart and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: **Jesus Christ was born to SAVE.**

Luke 19:10 (NLT) For the Son of Man came to SEEK and SAVE those who are lost."

Mark 10:45 (NIV) For even the Son of Man did NOT come to be served, but TO SERVE, and to GIVE His LIFE as a RANSOM for many.

JOY Filled Announcement ~ Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you GOOD NEWS of GREAT JOY that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and PRAISING God for ALL the things they had heard and seen, which were JUST AS they had been told.

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁰ ...I bring you GOOD NEWS of GREAT JOY that will be for ALL the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a SAVIOR has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.

Matthew 1:21 (NIV) ...give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus, because He will SAVE His people from their sins.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made Him who had NO sin to BE SIN for us, so that IN Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 8:1 (NIV) ...there is now NO condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus,

Glorifying and Praising God ~ Mathew 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."

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 incense 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.

TAKE AWAY ??

→ I am Smiling

Romans 8:31-32 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who **did not spare His own Son**, but gave Him up for US all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

I heard the bells on Christmas Day - Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet - The words repeat - Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head - There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song - Of peace on earth, good will to men

Then rang the bells more loud and deep - **God is not dead, nor does He sleep**
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail - With peace on earth, good will to men

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) For I am convinced that **neither** death nor life, **neither** angels nor demons, **neither** the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ **neither** height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us** from the LOVE of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.