

The Meaning of Christmas

Luke 1-2, Matthew 1-2

With all of the busyness surrounding Christmas, it is sometimes necessary for us to remember what the real meaning of Christmas is. Today we will look at what the angels and prophets said about it around Jesus' birth.

Luke 1:67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: ⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, ⁶⁹And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant-- ⁷⁰As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- ⁷¹Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; ⁷²To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, ⁷³The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, ⁷⁴To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, ⁷⁵In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. ²⁰But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." ²²Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, ²³"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:21 And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Matthew 2:9 And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. ¹⁰And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they

fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Based on all these passages, what would you say the meaning of Christmas is?

If that is the meaning of Christmas, then how can we make Christmas meaningful ...

... to our neighbors?

... to our co-workers?

... to our children?

... to ourselves?