

Jesus the Messiah "Joy to the World"

Matthew 2:1-23 (Screen only)

What can we discover in the birth of Christ that can give us true joy this Christmas season?

Three sources of true joy:

1) God will protect us.

- Herod was not very joyful on hearing the news of Jesus' birth.
- In fact the Bible tell us that he was disturbed.
- Just like Herod: There is an enemy for our soul, Satan is against us.
- His desire is to separate us from God.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. – **Luke 22:31**

- His desire is to devour your life.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. – **I Peter 5:8**

- His desire is to rob you of all your joy

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. – **John 10:10**

- Look at what is revealed about God through Jesus' birth.
 - God thwarted the plans of Satan.
 - God can reverse what the enemy had in mind for you.

2) God will prepare the way for us.

- God led the Wise Men.
- God led Joseph and Mary to Egypt, then back to Israel and eventually back to Galilee.
 - ◆ What can we learn?
 - God will reveal your future if you do His will today!
 - God does have a plan even when the circumstances do not seem to match.
 - God will lead you.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. – **Proverbs 3:5-6**

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. – **John 16:13**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. – **Psalms 32:8**

3) God will provide for us.

Notice: The Wise Men gave gifts to the newborn king.

- These gifts helped provide for them financially as they fled to Egypt.
- Gold: Symbolized royalty. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - Incense: It was burned as an offering to God. Jesus literally became our offering.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man— **Romans 8:3**

For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. – **II Corinthians 2:15**

- Myrrh: It was used in embalming the dead.
- Jesus suffered and died in our place.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. – **Hebrews 4:15-16**

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. – **Isaiah 53:4-5**

In the midst of horrible circumstances God did some wonderful things:

- ◆ **God made a way for Mary and Joseph.**
- ◆ **God made a way for the Wise Men.**
- ◆ **God will make a way for you!**