

The Pronouncement of Christmas

December 7, 2025

Luke 1:1-4, 2:9-10; 2 Corinthians 11:3

For Most People, What Is The Primary Emphasis Of Christmas?

I. The top 4 emphases of Christmas

- A. Gifts
- B. Family together
- C. Food
- D. Time off

II. The results of this emphasis at "Christmastime"

- A. 88% feel overwhelming stress
- B. The average couple has 7 major fights between Thanksgiving and New Years
- C. The fights are over 7 things
 1. Money
 2. Where to go for Christmas
 3. Cooking (what & who cooks)
 4. Cleaning
 5. Family disconnect
 6. Gifts (How much, how many)
 7. Drinking too much
- D. Overeat
- E. Stress reaches a break point that decisions about divorce are made between December 15th and January 15th unlike any other time of year ("So this is Christmas & what have we done?")

III. The emphasis of the first Christmas

- A. What was not occurring?
 1. No gifts exchanged

2. No major meal
3. No decorated homes
4. No time off from work
5. No chariots with a red bow

B. What was occurring?

1. A pronouncement unlike the world has ever known
2. Angels that rejoiced
3. Shepherds that shared with others what they saw & heard
4. Hearts, lives, destinies, & perspectives changed

IV. The angelic pronouncement

- A. Angels are seen throughout the Christmas narrative
 1. Gabriel speaking to Zacharias
 2. Gabriel sent to Mary
 3. Angels appeared to Joseph in a dream
 4. Angels spoke to shepherds
 5. Angels lit up the sky praising God
 - B. Angels are real
 1. Messengers of God
 2. They declare to humanity what will occur
 - C. What they pronounced that first Christmas
 1. Good news about what has been anticipated, hoped for, & longed for
 2. The Messiah is now here
 3. The prophets words are being fulfilled: Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel, Micah, & Zechariah
- What to pronounce this Christmas season -

V. 10 prophecies around the birth of the Messiah (that most don't know)

- A. Daniel's timing, prophecy fulfilled - Daniel 9:24-27
 1. Messiah would arrive - 483 years after Artaxerxes issued a decree to restore Jerusalem - Nehemiah 2:1-18
 2. Would be born before the Temple destroyed, 70 AD - Daniel 9:27
 3. Messiah be born when crucifixion in place -

Psalm 22

4. Before capital punishment removed from Jewish authority - Genesis 49:10
5. Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2
6. Born of a virgin - Isaiah 7:14
7. Family flee to Egypt - Matthew 2:13
8. Rachel weeping - Matthew 2:17
9. Messiah a descendant of Abraham, Issac, Jacob, & David - Matthew 1:1-3
10. Immanuel God with us - Matthew 1:23

VI. The good news

- A. Prophecy fulfilled
- B. Forgiveness of sin
- C. 3 types of people
 1. Those who carry guilt & shame
 2. Those who feel no guilt or shame
 3. Those who have had their chains of guilt & shame broken
- D. The deliverance of guilt & shame
 1. Produces hope
 2. Produces freedom
 3. Helps to understand grace
 4. Jesus does this throughout His ministry
- E. A changed life
 1. Everyone who encounters Messiah is changed
 2. Change on the inside
 3. Change that is ongoing
 4. From a dark past to a bright future
- F. A faith that has 3 points
 1. What God does for you
 2. What God does in you
 3. What God does through you

VII. Great joy

- A. We live in a joyless world
- B. When God works in you & through you joy becomes a reality
- C. Serving brings joy
- D. Jesus came to seek, serve, & save
- E. That brought joy to the world
- F. Joy comes when we receive the gift God has sent
 1. Forgiveness
 2. New life
 3. Grace
 4. Eternal life
 5. Heaven is our home, future is secure

VIII. For all people

- A. Jesus encountered all types of people
- B. Those that believed, they all received
 1. Grace
 2. A new start
 3. A new hope
 4. A new life
 5. Eternal life

IX. What does this mean for the believer today?

- A. Maybe we should be like angels - pronouncing Messiah
- B. Serving others which brings joy to us
- C. Like the shepherds, share what we know
- D. Share the gift
 1. A gift that changes us
 2. A gift that delivers us
 3. A gift that gives us Eternal life

Have You Received The Gift?