

Christmas Day
25 December 2024

The birth of the Saviour who is the Word made flesh

Micah 5.2-4
Psalm 98.1-5
Titus 3.4-7
Luke 2.1-16

Key Verse - *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
Luke.2.11

Christmas morning is a time of profound joy, a celebration of God's love revealed to the world in the most extraordinary way. The birth of Jesus Christ is not just a historical event but the manifestation of God's eternal plan of salvation. It is the moment when the Word, who was with God and who was God, became flesh and dwelt among us. Today, as we reflect on the Scriptures from Micah, Psalm 98, Titus, and Luke, we will explore three aspects of this marvellous event: The Promise of a Savior, The Joy of Salvation, and The Revelation of God's Love in Jesus Christ.

1. The Promise of a Savior (Micah 5:2-4)

The prophet Micah foretold the coming of the Savior with remarkable specificity: *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."* (v. 2) God's choice of Bethlehem, a humble and seemingly insignificant town, reflects His pattern of working through the lowly and the unexpected. This promise reveals the depth of God's providence: while human eyes often look for greatness in power and majesty, God chooses to bring salvation through humility and grace. Think of a tiny seed planted in the ground. At first glance, it seems insignificant, yet within it lies the potential for a mighty tree. In the same way, the child born in Bethlehem was seemingly small and ordinary, but He came with the power to save the world. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God's promises never fail. Just as He fulfilled His promise through Bethlehem, He will fulfil His promises in our lives. Even in our moments of insignificance, God sees us, values us, and uses us for His purposes.

2. The Joy of Salvation (Psalm 98:1-5)

Psalm 98 is a hymn of celebration for the salvation God brings: *"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him."* (v. 1) The birth of Jesus is the ultimate marvellous work of God. It is the new song that all creation sings - the redemption of humanity and the restoration of our relationship with God. The psalmist calls all people to rejoice because God's salvation is not confined to one nation or people but is for the entire world. In Christ, this joy is fully realized, as the angels declared to the shepherds: *"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."* (Luke 2:10). Imagine a family waiting anxiously for a loved one to return home after years of separation. When the door

finally opens, there is overwhelming joy and celebration. Christmas is the opening of the door between heaven and earth, and Jesus is the One who makes it possible for us to come home to God. This joy is not fleeting but eternal, rooted in the knowledge that Christ has come to save us. Let us share this joy with others, proclaiming the good news of salvation in our words and actions.

3. The Revelation of God's Love in Jesus Christ (Luke 2:1-16; Titus 3:4-7)

Luke's account of Jesus' birth shows the humility of God's love: *"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."* (Luke 2:7) Paul, in his letter to Titus, explains the profound significance of this event: *"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy."* (Titus 3:4-5). In Jesus, God's love is not distant or abstract but tangible and personal. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing in our struggles, pain, and joys. This is the ultimate expression of God's grace - He came to us when we could not come to Him. Consider a parent who, seeing their child struggling to climb a steep hill, comes down to lift the child in their arms and carry them to the top. This is what God has done for us through Jesus. He descended to our level so that we might ascend to His. On Christmas Day, let us remember that the manger points to the cross. The child born in humility came to die for our sins, to rise again, and to bring us eternal life. Let this truth fill our hearts with gratitude and inspire us to love and serve others as Christ loves us.

Christmas: A Day of Fulfilled Hope

Christmas is the day when centuries of longing and anticipation were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ. The prophets, including Micah, had spoken of a coming Savior who would establish justice, bring peace, and shepherd His people. On that first Christmas night, in a humble stable in Bethlehem, God's promises became reality. This fulfillment of hope speaks directly to us today. Just as the people of Israel waited in expectation, we too have our moments of waiting—for answers to prayers, for breakthroughs in difficult circumstances, for peace in our hearts. Christmas reminds us that God is faithful and His timing is perfect. When the time was right, He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us. (Galatians 4:4-5)

Christmas: God's Gift of Presence

At its heart, Christmas is about Emmanuel - "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). It's not only a celebration of Jesus' birth but also of God's decision to dwell among His creation. The incarnation is God stepping into human history, taking on flesh, and entering our broken world. This truth is deeply personal. Christmas assures us that we are not alone in our struggles. Jesus, fully God and fully man, understands our pain, temptations, and joys because He walked among us. When we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the God who came to be with us, to experience life as we do, and to lead us into the fullness of life.

Christmas: A Time for Worship and Wonder

The story of Christmas is filled with worship - from the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14) to the shepherds marvelling at the Christ child, to Mary pondering these events in her heart. Christmas invites us to pause, reflect, and worship. This worship is not only about singing

carols and attending church services but also about a posture of awe and gratitude. The birth of Jesus is the greatest gift we could ever receive - the gift of salvation, grace, and a restored relationship with God. As the psalmist declares, *"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!"* (Psalm 98:4).

Christmas: A Call to Love and Action

Christmas is not just a day to remember what God has done but also a call to respond. Titus 3:4-7 reminds us of God's mercy and grace, not because of our works but because of His love. This grace transforms us and calls us to live lives that reflect His love to others. During Christmas, as we exchange gifts and gather with loved ones, let us remember the greatest gift we have received and how we can share it. Who in our lives needs to experience the love of Christ this season? How can we, like the shepherds, go out and tell the good news to others? Christmas challenges us to live with generosity, compassion, and a heart for sharing the gospel.

The Light of Christmas

In a world often marked by darkness, Christmas shines as a beacon of light. The baby born in Bethlehem is the light of the world, driving out the shadows of sin and despair. John 1:4-5 declares, *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* This light is not only for a single day but for every day. As followers of Christ, we are called to carry His light into the world, especially to those who are hurting, lonely, or struggling. Christmas is a reminder that we are not only recipients of God's light but also bearers of it.

Conclusion:

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we are reminded that Christmas is not just a story of a baby born in Bethlehem. It is the story of the Word who became flesh, fulfilling God's promises, bringing salvation, and revealing His unending love for us. This Christmas, may we open our hearts to the Savior who came to dwell among us. May His birth inspire us to live in hope, share His joy, and reflect His love in all that we do. The birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises, the joy of salvation, and the ultimate revelation of His love. Let us celebrate this day with hearts full of praise and lives transformed by His grace. The miracle of Christmas did not end in Bethlehem; it continues today. Every time someone experiences the grace of Christ, every time a life is transformed by His love, the Christmas story is retold. The Word made flesh is still at work, bringing peace, hope, and salvation to a weary world. This Christmas, let us not only celebrate the birth of our Savior but also renew our commitment to live in the joy, hope, and love that He brings. Let us worship Him with grateful hearts, proclaim His good news, and shine His light wherever we go. For unto us, a Savior is born, and His name is Jesus - the Word made flesh who dwells among us.

Prayer

Gracious God, We thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh and the Savior of the world. On this holy day, we stand in awe of Your love and faithfulness. Help us to embrace the joy of salvation and to share the good news of Christ with others. As we reflect on the birth of our Savior, may our hearts be filled with gratitude and wonder. Empower us to live as faithful witnesses of Your grace, bringing light and hope to those around us. In the name of Jesus, the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.