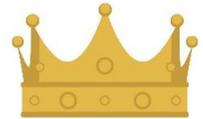


# Christmas Story: The Joy and the Hope of Christmas in a Righteous, Humble, and Loving King

## I. The Foretelling of the Coming of a Righteous King

When God created this world and human beings, everything was perfect. Human beings had a right relationship with God, with one another, and even with the animals. It was a flourishing and beautiful world as God wanted it to be. However, because of humans' rebellion (sin) against God, sin has corrupted everything in this world—us, our relationships with God and with one another, etc. All of us were born with sin or selfish nature and live in this broken and corrupted world. We are spiritually enslaved by sin and evil. Yet, many people do not realize this reality. We are not free to have a right relationship with God. We cannot and do not want it. We prefer to rule our own lives than God to be our King.

The Book of Isaiah in the Bible was written by Isaiah, a prophet of God, who lived about 700 years before Jesus was born. Isaiah foretold about the coming of the Son of God as the Promised Savior and a righteous King, who would save us from sin and evil.



### *From the Bible*

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel [which means, God with us].

**Isaiah 9:2** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

**Isaiah 9:6-7** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end ... to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

**Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way [sin or rebellion]; and the LORD [God] has laid on him [the Promised Savior who would sacrifice himself as our substitute] the iniquity [sin or rebellion] of us all.

## II. The Birth of a Humble King

Luke and Matthew are two books in the Bible written by followers of Jesus—Luke and Matthew respectively—shortly after Jesus died in the first century approximately in 60 A.D. Luke and Matthew wrote the story of the birth of Jesus. Jesus was born in a stable (room for animals) and was laid in a manger (feeding-box or container for animal food). Imagine that! The Creator and the King of the Universe was born as a baby boy in a manger.

### *From the Bible*

**Luke 1:26-33** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High ... and of his kingdom there will be no end."

**Matthew 1:18-25** Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet [Isaiah]: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Luke 2:4-7** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Luke 2:8-20** And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”



When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **III. A Loving King for All Nations**

The book of Revelation in the Bible was written by John, a follower of Jesus. Before John died, Jesus gave him a vision of his kingdom in the future—a kingdom for all his people from all nations—in a renewed earth (heaven on earth). John wrote the vision in his book Revelation in about 95 A.D.

#### ***From the Bible***

**Revelation 7:9-12** After this I [John] looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels were standing around the throne ... and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

**Revelation 21:1-5** Then I [John] saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he [Jesus] who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

### **Reflection: The Joy and the Hope of Christmas in a Righteous, Humble, and Loving King**

Deep inside our hearts, we long for a right relationship with our Maker, who is the only one who can give us a perfect **love, joy, and peace** in our hearts in this broken world.

We look for **love** in this world, but no one is able to give us a perfect love, because no one is perfect. Only Jesus—the Son of God who became a man—is a perfect person. Only King Jesus can give us perfect love. We learn about his love for us by looking at his sacrifice on the cross for us. He is a loving king who has given his life for us. Has anyone given his/her life for you?

We look for happiness all the times in this broken world, but we cannot and will never find perfect happiness. Everything is broken, and everyone is broken. Only King Jesus can give us perfect **joy** in our hearts. Because of our right relationship with him, no matter what difficult situations we face in this world, King Jesus is always with us, walking side by side with us, and often walking in front of us guiding us. This is our joy that cannot be taken away by anyone.

Our hearts are always anxious. We worry about so many things all the time. Life in this broken world is full of troubles. Nothing is perfect. Yet, King Jesus has promised us of a perfect world and kingdom for us when he returns. He will wipe away our tears. In his kingdom in the renewed world, there will be a perfect **peace**—no tears, troubles, death, pain, or sorrow. However, the renewed world, which is free from sin and corruption, is only given to those who have a right relationship with him; to those who have turned away from their sins and turn their hearts to him; to those who believe in him, trusting their lives to him.

As Mary pondered about what her baby boy would become as the angel and the shepherds told her, ponder about what Jesus has said to his followers, “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also (John 14:3).”

King Jesus—the righteous, humble, and loving king—will come again. The first Christmas (his first coming), he came as a baby boy to bring joy and hope to mankind. The second Christmas (his second coming), he will come as the King of the Universe with all his glory, bringing *the ultimate joy and hope* to mankind.