

# **“FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.” – LUKE 2:11.**

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

- The heavenly angel heralded the birth of Christ our Lord and Saviour to the shepherds abiding in the fields at night, in the following stirring words.  
*“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”* (Luke 2:10 & 11.)

## **“I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE”: -**

- The prophet Isaiah wrote of the “good tidings” that would be proclaimed through the salvation and peace that Christ was to bring.  
*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!”* (Isaiah 52:7.)

Isaiah also wrote concerning the “good tidings” that the Messiah was to proclaim himself in his ministry.  
*“The spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to [them that are] bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”* (Isaiah 61:1 & 2.)

Jesus at the synagogue in Nazareth read from this very prophecy from the Book of Isaiah, and proclaimed that his public ministry was the fulfilment of this Scripture at that very time. He was proclaiming “the gospel” or “good tidings” to the poor.

*“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave [it] again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* (Luke 4:16 - 21.)

Jesus is again recorded in Luke's gospel as proclaiming good tidings to the people of Israel during his public ministry. This is another evidence of Jesus fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah 52 & 61.

*"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God" (Luke 8:1).*

- The good tidings that the gospel of Christ is to bring as we have just read in Isaiah 52:7 are to publish peace and salvation. The apostle Peter preached of these good tidings as coming to us through Jesus Christ.

*"The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)." (Acts 10:36.)*

### **THESE GOOD TIDINGS ARE TO BE FOR ALL PEOPLE, POINTING US TO THE TRUTH THAT JESUS IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD: -**

- At the birth of Jesus, the heavenly angel proclaimed to the shepherds by night, *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11.)
- After Jesus stayed in the village of the Samaritans for two days, and after hearing him speak to them, they were able to testify concerning him, *"for we have heard [him] ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world"* (John 4:42).

The apostle John has recorded the simple truth *"that the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world"* (1 John 4:14).

☞ Jesus Christ is *"the desire of all nations"* that *"shall come"* (Haggai 2:7). This verse brings out the truth that the prophesied Messiah was to come and to be the Saviour of the whole world, including the Gentile nations. The following Scriptures leave us in no doubt concerning this truth, which harmonizes perfectly with the proclamation of the heavenly angel to the shepherds watching over their flocks during the night.

- The prophet Zechariah prophesied concerning the Messiah, *"He shall speak peace unto the heathen"* (Zechariah 9:10).
- The righteous man Simeon proclaimed concerning the infant Jesus, *"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."* (Luke 2:32.)
- The apostles Paul and Barnabas proclaimed to the unbelieving Jews at Antioch in Pisidia, *"It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, [saying], I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."* (Acts 13:46 - 48.)
- The apostle Paul confessed his faith concerning Jesus *"that Christ should suffer, [and] that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles."* (Acts 26:23.)

The apostle proclaimed to the Jews at Rome who did not believe his message concerning Jesus, *“Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and [that] they will hear it.”* (Acts 28:28.)

### **THE SCRIPTURES PREDICTED THE CITY OF DAVID WAS TO BE THE PLACE WHERE THE SAVIOUR WAS TO BE BORN: -**

- The prophet Micah recorded the city of Bethlehem as being the birthplace of the Saviour. *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth [have been] from of old, from everlasting.”* (Micah 5:2.)

When king Herod was aroused to jealousy by the arrival of the wise men in their search for the *“King of the Jews”* (Matthew 2:2), in his fear at a potential rival for his throne, he *“gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, [in] the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”* (Matthew 2:4 - 6.)

The above passage from Matthew’s Gospel clearly indicates that the Jewish people at the time of Jesus’ birth did indeed understand that Bethlehem was to be the prophesied birthplace of the Saviour. The following statement from the apostle John relating to Jesus’ preaching in the Temple at the Feast of Tabernacles as recorded in John 7 reinforces this fact.

*“Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”* (John 7:42.)

God’s overruling Providence arranged the affairs of the Roman Emperor for him to issue his decree for the entire world to be registered in a census, so that Joseph and Mary would be in Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth.

*“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ([And] this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”* (Luke 2:1 - 7.)

### **THE SAVIOUR FROM SIN: -**

- The heavenly angel testified to Joseph as to the reason why he should call Mary’s firstborn son Jesus, *“for he shall save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21). Jesus is the Saviour, or the One who saves his people **from** their sins!

- The apostles testified to the Jewish leaders when being tried for their faith, that God had exalted Jesus Christ *“with his right hand [to be] a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 5:31).
- The Scripture *“preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying], In thee shall all nations be blessed”* (Galatians 3:8).

The reason that Paul calls this promise that God made to Abraham *“the gospel”* is because it is in reality a promise to Abraham and *“to thy seed, which is Christ”* (Galatians 3:16).

The apostle Peter repeated this gospel promise in his preaching, *“And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.”* (Acts 3:25.) And the blessing that our Saviour Jesus Christ brings us in the gospel is given us in the next verse, *“Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”* (Acts 3:26.)

- The following prophecy from the pen of the prophet Isaiah refers to the Redeemer (that is, the One who redeems his people), who we already know is the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is of interest on the point that we are examining under this SECTION.  
*“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.”* (Isaiah 59:20.)

When the apostle Paul quotes this prophecy in his epistle to the Romans, he gives us further information concerning *“the Deliverer”* and his saving mission for his people.

*“There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob”* (Romans 11:26).

- Paul exhorted Titus to look *“for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”*. He adds concerning our Saviour, that he *“gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity<sup>1</sup>, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works”* (Titus 2:13 & 14).

### “CHRIST THE LORD”: -

- The Psalmist has recorded the following prophecy where two *“Lords”* are mentioned, with one Lord telling the other One to sit at his right hand, until he should make the other Lord’s enemies as his footstool.  
*“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”* (Psalms 110:1.)

When we study the New Testament Scriptures, we see that Jesus himself has applied this prophecy to the Christ; and the apostles have applied it to Jesus sitting at the right hand of God after his ascension, with the apostle Peter on the Day of Pentecost stating that Jesus had been made both Lord and Christ by God the Father.

*“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, [The son] of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call*

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<sup>1</sup> The Greek word that is translated as *“iniquity”* is the Greek word *“anomia”* – See Strong’s Concordance; Greek, No. 458. This Greek word is defined as *“Lawlessness”* - A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by W. Bauer, Translated and revised by W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker; pages 71 & 72. Our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ gave himself to redeem us from all lawlessness.

him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?" (Matthew 22:41 - 45.)

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:32 - 36.)

- The apostle Paul has testified that our acknowledging Jesus as **the Lord** can only come through the Holy Spirit.  
"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and [that] no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (1 Corinthians 12:3.)
- The great truths of the saving message of the glad tidings of salvation through Christ our Lord, are outlined simply in the following passages from the pen of the apostle Paul.  
"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:21.)

"For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23.)

- Because Jesus (who was already existing in the form of God before he became flesh) humbled himself and became obedient unto his Father's will, by his death upon the cross, God the Father has exalted him in heaven. Ultimately, every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.  
"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5 - 11.)

### **CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS ARE TO OBEY THEIR LORD: -**

- Jesus made a simple statement concerning his Lordship over his followers, and their response.  
"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." (Luke 6:46 - 49.)

### **SALVATION IS THROUGH THE GLAD TIDINGS OF FAITH IN CHRIST OUR LORD: -**

- *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9.)*