

**It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year (Really)
Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph & Me**

Psalms 56:9b ...This I know, that **God is for me.**

Jeremiah 29:11 For **I know the plans I have for you**, declares the LORD, **plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

Isaiah 55:8 For **my thoughts are not your thoughts**, neither are **your ways my ways**, declares the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, **so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

John 13:7 Jesus answered him, “**What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.**”

Proverbs 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all your heart**, and **do not lean on your own understanding.**

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you**; my peace I give to you. **Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that ***in me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**”

Genesis 50:20 As for you, **you meant evil** against me, but **God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Isaiah 25:1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, **plans formed of old, faithful and sure.**

Isaiah 25:8 He will **swallow up death forever**; and the **Lord GOD will wipe away tears** from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 25:9 It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; **we have waited for him, that he might save us.** This is the LORD; **we have waited for him**; let us be glad and **rejoice in his salvation.**”

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

John 1:2 **He was in the beginning with God.**

John 1:14 And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the **only Son from the Father**, full of **grace and truth**.

Luke 1:5 **In the days of Herod**, king of Judea, there was a priest named **Zechariah**, of the **division of Abijah**. And **he had a wife** from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was **Elizabeth**.

Luke 1:6 And they were both **righteous before God**, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord.

Luke 1:7 But **they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years**.

Luke 1:8 Now while **he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty**,

Luke 1:9 according to the custom of the priesthood, **he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense**.

Luke 1:10 And the **whole multitude of the people** were **praying outside** at the hour of incense.

Luke 1:11 And there appeared to him an **angel of the Lord** standing on the right side of the **altar of incense**.

Luke 1:12 And **Zechariah** was **troubled** when he saw him, and **fear fell upon him**.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, “**Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John**.

Luke 1:14 And you will have **joy and gladness**, and many will rejoice at his birth,

Luke 1:15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb**.

Luke 1:16 And **he will turn many** of the children of Israel **to the Lord their God,**

Luke 1:17 and **he will go before him** in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

Luke 1:18 And **Zechariah** said to the angel, “**How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.**”

Luke 1:19 And the angel answered him, “**I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.**

Luke 1:20 And behold, **you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place**, because **you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.**”

Luke 1:21 And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple.

Luke 1:22 And when he came out, he was **unable to speak to them**, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and **remained mute.**

Luke 1:23 And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Luke 1:24 After these days his wife **Elizabeth conceived**, and for **five months** she kept herself hidden, saying,

Luke 1:25 “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

Luke 1:26 In the **sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,**

Luke 1:27 to a **virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph**, of the house of David. And the **virgin’s name was Mary.**

Luke 1:28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, **O favored one, the Lord is with you!**”

Luke 1:29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luke 1:30 And the angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid, Mary**, for you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:31 And behold, **you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.**

Luke 1:32 He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. And the **Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David**,

Luke 1:33 and **he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”**

Luke 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, “**How will this be, since I am a virgin?”**

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.**

Luke 1:36 And behold, your **relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son**, and this is the **sixth month with her who was called barren.**

Luke 1:37 **For nothing will be impossible with God.”**

Luke 1:38 And Mary said, “**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”** And the angel departed from her.

Matthew 1:18 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**.

Matthew 1:19 And **her husband Joseph**, being a just man and **unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.**

Matthew 1:20 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.**

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, **for he will save his people from their sins.**”

Matthew 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

Matthew 1:23 “Behold, the **virgin shall conceive and bear a son**, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:24 When Joseph woke from sleep, **he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,**

Matthew 1:25 **but knew her not until she had given birth to a son.** And he called his name Jesus.

Luke 1:57 Now the **time came for Elizabeth to give birth**, and **she bore a son.**

Luke 1:58 And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

Luke 1:59 And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And **they would have called him Zechariah after his father,**

Luke 1:60 but his mother answered, **“No; he shall be called John.”**

Luke 1:61 And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”

Luke 1:62 And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.

Luke 1:63 And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, **“His name is John.”** And they all wondered.

Luke 1:64 And immediately **his mouth was opened** and his tongue loosed, and **he spoke, blessing God.**

Luke 1:67 And his father Zechariah was **filled with the Holy Spirit** and **prophesied**, saying,

Luke 1:68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has **visited** and **redeemed** his people

Luke 1:69 and has **raised up a horn of salvation for us** in the house of his servant David,

Luke 1:70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

Luke 1:71 that we should be **saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;**

Luke 1:72 to show the **mercy promised to our fathers** and to **remember his holy covenant,**

Luke 1:73 the oath that he swore **to our father Abraham,** to grant us

Luke 1:74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, **might serve him without fear,**

Luke 1:75 in **holiness and righteousness** before him **all our days.**

Luke 1:76 And you, **child,** will be called the **prophet of the Most High;** for you will go **before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

Luke 1:77 to **give knowledge of salvation to his people** in the **forgiveness of their sins,**

Luke 1:78 because of the **tender mercy of our God,** whereby the **sunrise shall visit us from on high**

Luke 1:79 to give **light to those who sit in darkness** and in the **shadow of death,** to **guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Luke 2:1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

Luke 2:2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Luke 2:3 And all went to be registered, **each to his own town.**

Luke 2:4 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,**

Luke 2:5 to be registered with **Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.**

Luke 2:6 And while they were there, **the time came for her to give birth.**

Luke 2:7 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 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:9 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.**

Luke 2:10 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.**

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2:12 And this will be a sign for you: **you will find a baby** wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:13 And suddenly there was **with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,**

Luke 2:14 "**Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth **peace among those with whom he is pleased!**"

Matthew 2:13 Now when they (Wise Men) had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "**Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt**, and remain there until I tell you, **for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.**"

Matthew 2:14 And he rose and took the child and his mother **by night and departed to Egypt**

Matthew 2:15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew 2:19 But when Herod died, behold, **an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,**

Matthew 2:20 saying, **“Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel,** for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

Matthew 2:21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

Matthew 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, **he was afraid** to go there, and **being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.**

Matthew 2:23 And he went and **lived in a city called Nazareth,** so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Why Jesus Came

John 6:38 For **I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.**

1Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,** of whom I am the foremost.

1John 3:8 Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**

Hebrews 2:14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things,** that **through death** he might **destroy** the one who has the **power of death,** that is, **the devil,**

Hebrews 2:15 and **deliver all those who through fear of death** were subject to **lifelong slavery.**

Mark 10:45 For even the **Son of Man came** not to be served but **to serve,** and **to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

Mark 2:17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

John 12:27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? **But for this purpose I have come to this hour.**

Luke 19:10 For the **Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**”

Isaiah 9:6 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.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

Galatians 4:4 But when the **fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,**

Galatians 4:5 to **redeem those who were under the law**, so that **we might receive adoption as sons.**

“I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD”

Last recorded words from Mary: John 2:5b **“Do whatever he tells you.”**