

Arrival of Joy

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid.** I bring you good news that will cause **great joy** for all the people. ¹¹ **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.** ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Transition

“The angel said to [the shepherds], ‘**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” (Luke 2:10–11).

Question

How does the Lordship of this newborn baby boy make it possible for you to have joy this Christmas?

- I mean you — not just the shepherds.
- It is for everyone who says, “**Jesus is Lord!**”
- Luke 2:10 tells us that great joy is coming into this world, and Luke 2:11 answers the questions, How can it come?
- How can it be sustained in such a world?
- Because this baby boy is not only a Savior — not only the Christ, the Messiah — but is **the Lord.**

What makes great joy possible for you is not just that this baby boy will be a Savior, and not just that he will be the long-awaited Messiah, but that he is the Lord.

Illustration

Someone might say to you, “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!

It’s falling on your family.

It’s falling on your church.

It’s falling on your city.

It’s falling on your nation.

It's falling on the world.

Don't you realize the sky is falling?"

What will be the foundation of your joy?

So that's our question:

How does the Lordship of this newborn baby boy make it possible for you to have great JOY this Christmas?

5 reasons you can have GREAT JOY this Christmas.

I. Jesus is Lord sent from God.

- The fearlessness and greatness of your joy is possible because Jesus is a divine Lord.
- When we say, "Jesus is Lord," we mean no less than "Jesus is God."
- Luke says this in many ways in his gospel.

A. Jesus is Lord sent from God. God from God

1. First, Luke uses the word Lord interchangeably with God in reference to Jesus.
2. Look at the first two chapters.
3. The word Lord occurs **twenty-seven times**, with **twenty-five** of them referring to **God**.

Luke 2:9

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them...

Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

No hesitation.

No qualification.

The Lord (God) sent his angel, and the glory of the Lord (God) shone — and the child born is the Lord.

Luke 2:26

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the **Lord's Messiah**.

Luke 2:11

Christ the Lord.” That’s virtually the same as the apostle John saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

Jesus is “the Lord’s Christ,” and Jesus is “Christ the Lord.”

B. Born of a Virgin

1. The lordship of Jesus is the point of the virgin birth.
2. Look at Luke 1:31. Gabriel tells Mary she will have a child.
3. Mary asks how that can be (Luke 1:34).
4. Here’s how the angel answers in

Luke 1:35

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

5. This is the Holy Spirit making it clear that no human father will be needed because he is going to work an unfathomable miracle in Mary’s womb so that there will be a child with two natures, **divine** and **human**.
6. Jesus the **God-man** - Jesus the Lord.

C. Worthy of Worship

1. Where does the Gospel of Luke leave us at the end?
2. What are we doing as we walk away from this inspired display of the Lord Jesus?

Luke 24:51-52

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Unpack

- They worshiped him!
- That’s the point of Luke’s Gospel: Worship him with great joy!
- Value him as your greatest treasure!

Application

- So, you can be full of GREAT JOY this Christmas because Jesus is Lord of ALL
- “Jesus is Lord” means “Jesus is God.”

II. Jesus is a historical Lord.

- A. You can have great joy because Jesus is a historical Lord.

1. What I mean by this is that the accounts of Jesus's birth, life, death, and resurrection are not mythical.
2. They are not like **Greek mythology**.
3. They are rooted in **world history**.
4. The kind of history you can read and know about whether you are Christian or not.

Illustration

- The life of Jesus does not take place in **Middle-earth** or in a **galaxy far, far away** or in **Narnia**.
- It takes place "in the days of Herod, king of Judea" (Luke 1:5).
- Mary was from "a city of Galilee named Nazareth" (Luke 1:26).
- She came with Joseph to Bethlehem, a town about five miles outside Jerusalem, because "a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
- This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria"

Luke 2:1–2

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Luke 3:1-2 John the Baptist began his ministry....

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea THUREA and Tracoonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— ² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Question

- What's the point of all these secular, historical references?

Answer

- The point is that Jesus was just as real as if he had been born when Joe Biden was president of the United States, when Kay Ivey was governor of Alabama, and when Randall Woodfin was the mayor of Birmingham.
- He was not, and is not, **mythical**.

It is possible to have great joy because Jesus is a historical Lord.

III. Jesus is the all-powerful Lord

A. You can have great joy because Jesus is an all-governing Lord.

Lord OVER wind and waves

- Luke 8:24-25

Luke 8:24

²⁴The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!” He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵“Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

The answer is obvious: the one who made them.

Lord OVER demonic spirits

- Luke 4:41

Luke 4:41

⁴¹Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

Lord OVER sickness and disease

- Luke 4:40

Luke 4:40

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

All were healed.

Not some but all.

Every single one.

No failures.

Lord OVER our greatest enemy death

- Luke 7:14-15

Luke 7:14-15

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier (casket) they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

Jesus the Lord governs all natural events.

No demons can do anything but by his permission.

He can heal any disease.

He can and will raise the dead.

And it is he who opens the blind eyes of the human heart to know God.

Lord OVER the details

- Butterfly effect reversal.

Picture this.

Can you see Luke smiling as he began his Gospel with this story?

- God chose a virgin, and her betrothed, who were living in Nazareth.
- Their family line was from Bethlehem, where the Messiah must be born.
- To get this virgin to the proper birthplace, he puts it in the mind of Caesar Augustus — the most powerful person in the world, living over a thousand miles away — to call for empire-wide registration.
- This involves millions of people.
- At exactly the moment when it would get this one obscure, pregnant Jewish girl from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

The events of history are not about nations and industries.

God governs the world for the sake of his children.

- God did all this to fulfill his prophecy.
- That’s amazing.
- That’s our all-governing God, and that’s the Lord Jesus.
- And he is doing that today.
- Do you think the great events on the stage of world history are about nations and industries?
- **They’re not.** They are about you.
- God governs the world for the sake of his children.
- Jesus governs the world for the sake of those who say, “**Jesus is Lord!**” and mean it.

IV. Jesus is Lord Forever.

- You can have GREAT JOY because Jesus is an everlasting Lord.
- As the angel Gabriel said to Mary in Luke 1:31–33,

Luke 1:31-33

³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

- He will reign forever.
- His kingdom will have no end.
- If you are the subject of his Lordship, you will live forever.
- He will raise you from the dead.
- He will bring you with him into everlasting life.
- His power to govern all things for your good will never end.
- Never. You can never be lost if you are his.

Jesus is Lord sent from God.

Jesus is a historical Lord.

Jesus is the all-powerful Lord

Jesus is Lord Forever.

V. Jesus is the joy filled Lord.

You can have great joy because Jesus is a full of joy.

- A. Jesus is the perfect embodiment of his Father’s joy.
 1. When the angels say, “Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14), they are obeying God.
 2. That is what he wants them to say! — **and it is a happy shout.**
 3. This is a **glad night.** And the **happiness** started in heaven.

- B. Luke completes the picture of God’s joy later in his Gospel.
 1. Only Luke records the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Luke 15).
 2. Jesus tells all three parables to explain why he eats with tax collectors and sinners.
 3. He does it because he embodies his Father’s joy in saving sinners.

Lost Coin

Luke 15:9

And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

- Her lost coin representing Jesus finding a lost sinner.

Luke 15:10

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

- Look carefully to the wording.
- It doesn't say, "There is joy among the angels."
- It says, "There is joy before the angels," joy in their presence.
- This is God's joy. That's God's happiness.

Lost Son

- Then comes the parable of the lost or prodigal son.
- He has squandered all the father's inheritance.
- He heads home, hoping to be a taken-care-of slave.

Luke 15:20

So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:22a-24

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick!... ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' **So they began to celebrate.**

- And, as if to make it crystal clear, the father says to the grumbling older brother:

Luke 15:32

But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Application

- In Luke's Gospel what makes God happy?
- What makes the Lord Jesus happy?
- God is happy when his people discover the **Joy-Filled** goodness of their Father.