

# GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

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*"He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son." 2 Samuel 7:13,14*



Samuel was directed to Bethlehem to anoint a King. He selected a boy who was caring for sheep out in the fields. Nearly eleven hundred years later, when shepherds were tending their flocks upon the same hillside, the glory of God penetrated the darkness, revealing an angel. "Fear not," assured the heavenly messenger, "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

All Israel had waited patiently for a thousand years for that important announcement. The promise had been made to King David (2 Samuel 7:6-17 ; Psalm 89:29) ; and the beginning of its fulfillment was proclaimed in David's country, the fields familiar to his childhood.

The loyal Israelites left their flocks and hastened to Bethlehem. They searched out the Child of Promise, did homage to Him, and "returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen." Luke 2:20

The angel announced "great joy, which shall be to all people." We shall share in that joy by reviewing the promises of the kingdom to be fulfilled in that remarkable Child.

God assures us, "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Psalm 2:6-8 Later Isaiah prophesied: " For a child is born to us, a son hath been given to us, and the government is placed on his shoulders; and his name is called Wonderful, counsellor of the Mighty God, of the everlasting Father, the prince of peace, for promoting the increase of the government, and for peace without end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to establish it through justice and righteousness, from henceforth and unto eternity. The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will do this.' Isaiah 9:6 (Leeser).

Gabriel told Mary of this great prophecy when he informed her that she had been selected as the mother of Jesus. "For," said he, "thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt . . . bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:30-33

The Jews were fully aware that Jesus claimed to be the rightful heir to the throne of David. Their accusation of Jesus before Pilate was that He claimed to be king of the Jews. When questioned by Pilate, Jesus replied: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." John 18:37 Jesus not only claimed the throne, but He went so far as to promise positions of power and rulership to the twelve when He Himself should occupy His throne: "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Matthew 19:28



God has not forgotten His promise to Jesus. John was granted a glimpse into the future and saw the throne given to its rightful heir: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 11:15 Jesus is not ruling on His throne now (see Revelation 3:21). He will not do so until "the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Matthew 25:31

God has revealed some of the blessings and pleasures of that coming kingdom age, not many, but sufficient to attract us. "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. . . . Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also; and him that hath no helper." Psalm 72:7-12. "He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15 : 25, 26. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose...Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing." Isaiah 35:1,5,6 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4 "And there shall be no more curse." Revelation 22:3 When the kingdom is fully established, God Himself will dwell with men and be their God (Revelation 21:3).



All accounts of Christ's kingdom speak as though it would be located upon this earth. "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth." Zechariah 14:9. "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Isaiah 2:3

If we Gentiles are faithful unto our Master, we shall be given the opportunity to reign with King Jesus; for He has redeemed us unto God by His blood "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on THE EARTH." Revelation 5:9,10