

Timeless Joy

2018 Christmas Study

We do not know what will happen in the United States of America in 2019, but we do know what happened in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Knowing and appreciating what happened then, gives us the faith to move into this upcoming year without fear. As you study the story of our Savior's birth (primarily from the book of Luke), may the Lord freshen your appreciation of all that Christmas proclaims.

Timeless Joy:

1. *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*
Galatians 4:4-5 In what way is this a reminder to you that God is in control?

a. Why was this a *time of great joy*? See Luke 2:(8-10)11

- 1.) What does the word *Savior* mean to you?
2. Consider the words *timeless joy*. The word *timeless* has been defined as "that which cannot be measured by time; unending; transcending time; eternal." In light of this, how would you define the word *joy* as it relates to Christ's birth?

Joy to the World. The Lord has Come!

Luke 1:26-38 - The Time Has Come!

1. View this *timeless joy* from the following prophecies written over 700 years before Jesus' birth. What do you see?

Isaiah 7:14

Isaiah 9:6(7)

- a. Notice the phrases *shall call His name* and *His name will be called* in these prophecies. Thoughtfully record each of these names. Add them to your adoration and worship this Christmas season.

- 1.) Choose one of these names and share what it means to you today.
2. Observe the miraculous unfolding of these astounding prophecies through Luke 1:26-38. Summarize each of the following passages in your own words.

a. Luke 1:26-29

- 1.) Think about the promise to Mary *the Lord is with you*. Put yourself in Mary's place and share what those words would mean to you.

b. Luke 1:30-37

- 1.) Focus on Luke 1:36,37. Why do you think Gabriel told Mary about her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy?

c. Luke 1:38

1.) *BEHOLD the maidservant of the Lord!* What does this phrase signify to you about Mary?

Luke 2:8-20 - Tidings of Great Joy

1. Write a brief report of the amazing account recorded in Luke 2:8-20.

a. What was the shepherd's response to *the things that they had heard and seen?*

2. Consider Luke 2:10 in light of the title of this lesson, *Timeless Joy*. For whom were the *good tidings of great joy* intended?

a. In what way has Christ's birth brought you *great joy?*

3. According to Luke 2:15, what did the shepherds do *when the angels had gone away?*

a. If you had been with the shepherds on the night Christ was born, what would you have done after the angels left?

4. Mary had witnessed some incredibly awesome events. How did she respond to these things (verse 19)?

a. What do you think were some of Mary's thoughts?

5. *Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.* Luke 2:20 Go back to verses 11,12 and record what *they had heard and seen that was told them.*

Luke 2:21-38 The Light and Glory

1. Describe the event in the following verses:

a. Luke 2:21

1.) What do you learn about *Jesus* from Matthew 1:21 and Luke 2:30-32?

b. Luke 2:22-24

2. What do we *behold* about Simeon in Luke 2:25,26?

a. What did he do? Luke 2:28

b. What did he say? Summarize Luke 2:29-32.

1.) What three things did he say he had seen concerning Jesus? Luke 2:30,32

a.) What of Simeon's prophesy is still being fulfilled today?

2.) What was Joseph's and Mary's response? verse 33

c. After Simeon had blessed them, what did he say to Mary? List these four statements from Luke 2:34,35

1.) If you could go back in time and stand next to Simeon, what do you think you would have done or said?

3. Read Luke 2:36-38. Focus intently on Anna's dedication and devotion to the Lord. Thoughtfully write, from Luke 2:37b,38, what the Bible reveals about her.

a. With all of the responsibilities and distractions of living at the close of this year, in what way is Anna a role model for you?

Review

1. *For with God nothing will be impossible* Luke 1:37. What are just some of the *impossible* things God did as recorded in the first two chapters of Luke?
2. Review Luke 2:19. What *things* will you *treasure* and *ponder* in your heart this Christmas?
3. Review Luke 2:10-14. Join the angel choir this Christmas in praising God. Why are they praising and glorifying God?
4. Complete this lesson by writing a sentence or two expressing what the *good tidings of great joy* mean to you today.

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*

Jericho Road Christian Fellowship  *Women's Bible Studies 2018/2019*

Portions of this lesson have been adapted from Calvary Chapel (Costa Mesa) Joyful Life Women's Ministries