

SUBJECT : GOOD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 2:8-20

BIBLE TRUTH:

God's message is good news for everybody.

MEMORY VERSE:

READ Luke 2:11

LESSON AIM:

That you will know that God's message is good news for everybody.

Introduction

- Isaiah 61 was certainly a meaningful scripture to Jesus. He stood in the synagogue and read from it. Lu. 4:16-19
- What does this proclamation mean?
- God's purpose for us is the same as it has always been, to exercise dominion and authority over the earthly realm under His sovereign kingship. That has never changed.
- What has changed is our position? Adam's lose of their rightful place of authority allowed Satan, and unemployed cherub, to usurp the throne God intended for us to occupy.
- Fortunately for us God did not simply write us off, wipe us out, and start all over. His eternal purpose will never be thwarted; His perfect will shall come to pass. From the very beginning, god has a plan that would resolve our defection: But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a Woman, bourn under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Gal 4:4-5.
- God's purpose was to restore us to our full status as His sons and daughters and bring us back into His Kingdom. He sent Jesus as the Way. Faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and in His death for our sins and resurrection for our life is the doorway though which we enter the Kingdom of God. Rom. 10:8-10

Isaiah Speaks Of Jesus

- Isaiah 61:1-2 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; [2] To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;
- Isaiah speaks of Jesus in the first person. Luke 4:16 confirms the fact that this prophecy is of the coming Messiah.
- The anointing spoken of in this verses is not the pouring of oil on the head of the person being set aside for a particular service as a king, priest, or military person. This anointing was God's spirit and approval being upon him to fulfill every promise God has made to mankind.
- He had come to meet the spiritual needs of the people and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.
- There he stops reading, for the day of vengeance would not come until the Tribulation. Isa. 63:1-4 We are living today in God's year of acceptance, the day of grace. Of course, Isaiah is speaking here of the Lord's ministry to Israel during the tribulation period.

Are Angels Real

- Luke 2:8-9 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [9] And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- There was the unbelievable appearance of a real angel to shepherds. In the eyes of many, an angel would never appear to a shepherd. Matt. 18:10-11.
- Shepherds would seldom be found praising and worshipping God; as a result they were looked upon as anything but worshippers.
- Their reputation was lowly at best, and religious people snubbed and ignored them. They were despised because they were unable to attend services and to keep the ceremonial laws of washing and cleansing. Their flocks just kept them too busy.
- What a beautiful foretaste of the salvation to come: God gave the first message of His Son to common shepherds, those looked upon as sinners. These were small business owners in the marketplace that God identified with, Why didn't the angels appear to the religious people of that day?
- The Savior was coming to call sinners to repentance; therefore, the first announcement of His coming was given to sinners. Luke 10:19

Can Angels Talk?

- [10] And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to **all people**. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. [12] And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- The angel's message was one of reassurance, "fear not." This message of "fear not" must continue to be received by all in all areas of our lives especially our witness. 2Tim 1:7-11.
- Joy is a spirit promised to **every believer**. Joy is not produced by what you have externally but is manufactured internally by what you believe to be true. John 7:37-39, Isa. 12:1-3, Luke 24:49-53, Act 2:1-4
- Jesus was born in the city of David which is Bethlehem. Jesus was born a Messiah, The Christ and King. The sign the angels gave to the shepherds was a baby rapped in rags laying in an animal feeding trough.
- Though a King and the creator of the earth, there was no room available for him in the Inn. When God became flesh we beheld him as the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth. John 1:1-5, 14, Matt. 1:23

The First Promise God Made In The Bible:

- Gods first promise in the Bible was that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent. Gen. 3:15
- Christ was that Promised seed that was born of a woman under the law. Gal. 4:4-5
- Christ defeated and crushed Satan's authority (head) in this earth realm (world) when he was dying on the cross. Some of his last words he cried out from the cross was **"It is finished."** **What was finished? The work of redemption was complete.** What was the price of redemption., 1Peter 1:18-19
- **Everything Adam lost in the garden has been redeemed.**
- **The Church must be about our Father business of reclaiming all our property rights. 2Corn 5:17-19**
- Jesus settled our sin debt at the cross, He stamped it paid in full. 1Cor. 15:3
He freed us from the power and penalty of sin. {Rom. 8:1-2}
He took the sting out of death and robbed the grave of its victory. 1Corn. 15:55
He closed escrow on this world and took back the title deed to creation. Matt. 28:18-20
Then He instructed his Church to take possession. Luke 19:13,

The Conflict Is Over

- [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, [14] Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men
- There was the spectacular appearance of the heavenly host. The word “host” means an army of angels, “ten thousand times ten thousand” (Daniel 7:10, Psalm 68:17). God either gave the shepherds a special sight into the spiritual world and dimension or caused the spiritual dimension to appear to physical sight. Note: the angels did two things. They cried out for glory to be lifted up to God... who is the highest possible Being. who dwells in the highest realm of being possible, in heaven itself.
- They cried out for peace, for good will toward men. By peace is meant the peace of reconciliation, the good will between God and man. The alienation and separation, struggle and divisiveness, restlessness and fear caused by sin needed to be solved. Col. 1:20, Rom. 5:1-4, 2Corn 5:17-19
- The heavenly host was praising God that the alienation and separation were now being resolved in the birth of the “Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

Go Tell It

- [15] And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. [16] And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. [17] And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. [18] And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- The angels departed and the shepherds got busy. There were the excited shepherds seeking the evidence of what the angels told them. Note their excitement. They immediately decided to visit. “They said one to another, let us now go....” They *rushed* to see for themselves. They felt an urgency to act and to act now. They wasted no time.
- Note: they found the babe just as the angel had said. Notice there is no wise men accompanying them, and no star in the east guiding them. All of that came years later. Matt. 2:16
- They first experienced seeing the child themselves, then they shared their experience wherever they went. They were the first to bear witness to the Savior of the world. Then they caused a stir among the people. Note that nothing is said about these hearers seeking out the child. They only wondered about what they heard.

Mixed Emotions

- **[19] But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.**
- There was the awe-stricken, pondering mother. Mary had been told that her child was of God. She knew that the Messiah, the very Son of God, had now come.
- She had been through so much: pregnant, yet unmarried; the possibility of being found out and of rumors heaped upon rumors; the discussions with Joseph and with her parents; the long trip from Nazareth; the exhaustion of giving birth without help in a smelly stable; the visit of some rough-hewn shepherds with an amazing story of the heavenly host proclaiming the praises of God.
- Mary was tired, as weary and exhausted as a person could be. So much had happened, and she was at the very center of it all. No one could even begin to know the thoughts that had filled her mind for nine months, nor could anyone know the feelings and emotions of the experience. The wonder, the amazement, the astounding reality was too much to talk about.
- All she could do was continue in the humble sweetness that had so characterized her over the past months. She merely bowed in *humble adoration* to God and *entrusted* all these things into God's keeping. She said nothing, only pondered in her heart what was happening.

The Outcome

- [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.
- These shepherds, after their encounter with the angels, returned to the city praising and glorifying God for all the things they had heard and seen. These shepherds testified in the city or the marketplace. Their message was not for the religious people of that day. Matt. 9:10-13
- What makes this picture unique is the character of the shepherds, they were the common, non-religious shepherds worshipping God.
- The shepherds had spread the message, but note a shocking fact. The shepherds alone are seen praising God. No one else is seen seeking or praising the Savior.
- The shepherds were praising God for what they had *heard* and *seen*. God had spoken to them and they had received the message. They obeyed God's instructions to seek out the Messiah; therefore, they had been privileged to see the Messiah. They had reason to praise God.
- How many hear and see, yet never respond and never praise God? Hebrew 11:6, Luke 4:29, Matt. 7:7, Matt. 5:6