



“come just as you are”  
Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing

~Thought For The Day~



Prayer.....

Jesus; I ask it in Your name; protect the people over this weekend and keep them and supply all their needs, bless them and grant them favor. Fill them with Your will for them today and plans, lead people across their path that they can minister to, being Your hands and feet. Give them peace. Refresh Your Holy Spirit passion and fire in each one. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Matt 1:25;

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, see, the angel of the Lord came on them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign to you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Dan 7:10; Rev 5:11; 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Isa 57:19; Eph 2:17;

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 to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to 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. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. Gen 17:12; Lev 12:3; John 7:22; Matt 1:21; Luke 1:31;

Luke 2: 6-21

Josephus, Tacitus and Suetonius state that there was general expectancy over the East that the time for the Messiah to appear was at hand. It was based, partly at least, on Daniel's "70 weeks" prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27). By the popular interpretation, the 70 weeks was understood to mean 70 sevens of years, that is, 490. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem, from which they were to be reckoned (Daniel 9:25), was issued 457 B.C. The time was about up, the Son of God was about to appear.

It was the intention of the writers to show that Christianity had a supernatural origin. Long foretold it did not take place without heavenly evidence that the event of the ages was at hand. He was born of a virgin. His forerunner was born of a barren woman, who was past the age for child-bearing. Angels announced it to Zacharias, to Mary, to Joseph, and to the shepherds, and saved the child from being murdered. Wise -Men were supernaturally guided from distant lands to pay their homage, and to provide means for the child's flight from Herod.

What is here told in chapters 1 and 2 is omitted in the other gospels, except the statement in Matthew 1:25-2:1 that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and the return to Galilee (Matthew 2: 22-23)

The birthplace of Jesus was a center of historic associations. The city of David, Rachel's burying place, the home of Ruth, 15 miles to the south was Hebron, the home of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, 10 miles northwest was Gibeon, where Joshua made the sun stand still, 12 miles west was Socoh, where David had slain Goliath, 6 miles north was Jerusalem, where Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the magnificent capital of David and Solomon, the scene of the ministry of Isaiah and Jeremiah, the center of God's age-long effort to reveal Himself to mankind.

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, oldest church building in Christendom, was built originally by Helena, mother of Constantine the first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire, A.D. 330. There is a cave like room underneath the church that is said to be the actual manger room in which Jesus was born. There is a tradition that this same room was a part of the ancestral home of David and Boaz and Ruth. In this room Jerome the Latin scholar spent 30 years, making his translation of the Bible into Latin.

The Quirinius census of the Roman Empire was in A.D. 7, which was 10 or 12 years after Jesus was born. The discrepancy was for a long time troublesome to Biblical students, but in recent years ancient papyri have been found from which it is learned that Quirinius was twice governor of Syria. Luke expressly says it was the first enrolment. It has been found also that people were required to go to their ancestral homes for the census.

The Messiah was to be of the family of David, and to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-5). The chosen parents lived at Nazareth, 100 miles from Bethlehem. A decree of Rome requires them to go to Bethlehem, just as the child is to be born. Thus God makes the decree of a pagan empire to be the instrument of fulfilling His prophecies. (see how God lines things up, to be in exactly the time and place, He wants? He sends His Word out to accomplish what He wants done, and it does not return empty or void, but accomplishes what He sent it out for.)

The word translated , inn, may mean a public lodging place or the guest room adjoining a private home. It is thought to have been the latter, probably the home of their Davidic kins, same house where the Wise -Men later came (Matthew 2:11). It was a 100 mile journey from Nazareth, by foot on a donkey. The Son of God had an animal feed-trough for his cradle. After the shepherds came and told their story, no doubt the best the home afforded was open to Joseph and Mary. Some history accounts say that the stables were caves, where the animals were kept.

The Shepherd's Field where the angelic choirs sang the birth-day hallelujahs of earth's new King, is about three-quarters of a mile east of Bethlehem. (Note in the Bible it does not say how many shepherds we assume the earlier people thought 3 because of the gifts mentioned, in reality the people traveled in groups so that their needs would be met, to carry tents, the extra animals, food and for protection...so there may have been at least 120 shepherds and other people..traveling in a caravan).

Jesus' Birthday is now celebrated on December 25th, there is nothing in the Bible to indicate it. This date first appears as Jesus' birthday in the 4th century, in the West. The Eastern church date is January 6th.

Gabriel was the name of the Angel sent from heaven to direct arrangements for the Son of God's arrival ( Luke 1:19, 26). Gabriel also appeared to Elizabeth, Mary, Zachariah, Joseph, presume the Shepherd's, and also the one that directed the flight to Egypt (Matthew 2:13, 19). He had given to Daniel the 70 weeks' prophecy (Daniel 9:21)

When Jesus was born time was reckoned in the Roman Empire from the founding of the city of Rome. When Christianity became the universal religion over what had been the Roman world, a monk named Dionysius Exiguus, at the request of the Emperor Justinian made a calendar A.D. 526, reckoning time from the birth of Christ to supersede the Roman calendar. Long after the Christian calendar had replaced the Roman Calendar it was found that Dionysius had made a mistake in placing the birth of Christ in 753 from the founding of Rome. It should have been about 749, or a year or two earlier.

Jesus was the eldest of a family of seven children. They were poor. There is not much known about the childhood of Jesus, except what we have in the Bible, all the stories people hear about miracles He did as a child are fables. We have the Bible account of Him being in the temple, at 12, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard Him were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His intelligence and understanding and His replies. In verse 40, it says and the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him [Judg. 13:24; 1 Sam 2:26]. Verse 51, And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and His mother kept and closely and persistently guarded all these things in her heart. Verse 52, And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and years, and in favor with God and man. Nothing is known of Jesus' life from 12 to 30. The common language was Aramaic, and this was the language Jesus spoke, He was instructed in Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament Scriptures. He must have known Greek, for it was the language of a large part of the population, and the universal language of the time. Jesus was familiar with both the Hebrew and Septuagint Old Testament.

Note that Mary did not speak about these things, she kept them in her heart and pondered them. Whatever Mary may have thought or felt, she controlled it because she said to the angel who first brought the news... "let it be done to me according to what you have said" (Luke 1:38) Did you ever wonder if the people would have believed her, somehow I don't think so, unless they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is why when God speaks to us, something to us, many times we need to keep it to ourselves. He gives us the faith to believe what He has said to us, but if we try to tell it to others, they may think we have lost our minds. One of the problems with sharing too much with others; we get discouraged instead of encouraged. Other people do not always have the faith to believe what God has told us. If God has spoken to us it will be lined up with the Bible, if it is not there it is not God. There is always confirmation that follows, for instance I had two people give me the exact same prophecy, about 4 years apart and they did not know each other, and one was just recently the other was from a 92 year old pastor. The prophecy was scripture the exact same one, it is just God giving me confirmation, a God thing. Sometimes when you share what God wants you to do people do not believe it, I shared one time only, and the person more or less told me I did not hear from God, and that I was a woman. So if this person is saying the Bible is written for just men, I have a problem with that, God created male and female, than we have Gal. 3:28, the thought I was getting from this person is that female woman cannot be saved, and they are not called of God...so guess that leaves Sarah out, Deborah out, Ruth out, Esther out, Mary out, Elizabeth out and all the other women noted in the Bible...in the first place whom God calls is His business, and mankind does not do the calling God does.

When God calls you to do something, He also gives you the faith to do it, it is by His grace, and where God guides, He provides.

[Halley's Bible Handbook; 1965; pages 490-494 ....KJV....Amplified Bible and narratives ]

**Psa 119:105**  
Thy word [is] a lamp unto  
my feet, and a light unto my path.



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Define....

Feasts—

1. (n.) A festival; a holiday; a solemn, or more commonly, a joyous, anniversary.
2. (n.) A festive or joyous meal; a grand, ceremonious, or sumptuous entertainment, of which many guests partake; a banquet characterized by tempting variety and abundance of food.
3. (n.) That which is partaken of, or shared in, with delight; something highly agreeable; entertainment.
4. (n.) To eat sumptuously; to dine or sup on rich provisions, particularly in large companies, and on public festivals.
5. (n.) To be highly gratified or delighted.
6. (v. t.) To entertain with sumptuous provisions; to treat at the table bountifully; as, he was feasted by the king.
7. (v. t.) To delight; to gratify; as, to feast the soul.

Spirituality—

1. (n.) The quality or state of being spiritual; in corporeality; heavenly-mindedness.
2. (n.) That which belongs to the church, or to a person as an ecclesiastic, or to religion, as distinct from temporalities.
3. (n.) An ecclesiastical body; the whole body of the clergy, as distinct from, or opposed to, the temporality.

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