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Birth of Lord Jesus Good Tidings of Great Joy

Two thousand years ago, that night in Bethlehem, a town situated in the Judean Hills, five miles south of Jerusalem, was the most beautiful night in the history of the world. The myriads of twinkling stars that adorned the heavens added splendour to that night. The wondrous divine glory shined in that night, as a prelude to the most spectacular historical event that would visit the earth that day. Never in the history of the creation of man had occurred such a glorious event, that God would come down on the earth in human flesh and dwell amongst us!

Caesar Augustus, the Emperor of Rome issued a decree for conducting a census. Because of the royal decree, Joseph and Mary, his betrothed wife had to travel to Bethlehem all the way from Nazareth although Mary was heavy with Child by miraculous conception. Thus, through the decree of Caesar Augustus, God fulfilled His divine decree that the Saviour of the world would be born in Bethlehem Ephrata, as prophesied long ago (Micah 5:2).

“And Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, Jesus, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the Inn”; as people from all over the land poured into Bethlehem for the census (Luke 2:7).

Not far away from the city of David, the shepherds were keeping watch over their flock in Galilee that night. As the shepherds kept watch over their flock, they were wonder-struck at the sight of an angel of the LORD, as the glory of God shown around them. As they stood frozen at that amazing sight in fear, the angel comforted them saying, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring

you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:10-12).

All of a sudden, they saw a company of the heavenly host appear with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men”. God's goodwill in sending the Messiah brought the message of peace on earth. The goodwill of God towards humanity is glory to God in the highest and peace on the earth. It is the highest expression of His redeeming love and mercy for the fallen man. Nowhere could we see the love of God strikingly exhibited than at the cross. It was the fulfilment of long-promised Biblical prophecies to save humanity from the punishment of their sin.

Apostle Peter says that “Jesus was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge”. God delighted to save man from the jaws of eternal death and for that very purpose He sent His Son, the delight of the Father, to die on the cursed cross, to take our rightful place there. The risen Saviour said, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations...” Dear reader, have you repented for your sins? Have you received forgiveness for your sins? Have you received the assurance of salvation? If not, come to the Saviour right now and be washed by His precious blood and experience the assurance of salvation!

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