

A Great Light

Read Lesson: John 1:1-14

In six days God created the heavens and the earth, and all that is in them. And He created man in His own image.

Very shortly thereafter, man, deciding that he knew better than his Creator what was good for him, ate the fruit and became a sinner.

But on that day, on the very day that sin entered into the world, God already had in place the plan for man's salvation. And through thousands of years of old testament history, God repeats His promise to provide a Savior.

We read in our scripture lesson that God's Word became flesh. The apostle John proclaims Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise. His life *is* the light of the world. And while not all of the world will recognize Him, those who do are given the right to become the children of God.

To those walking in darkness, He is indeed a great light.

Annunciation/Magnificat

Read Lesson: Luke 1:26-38A

Mary was, by all worldly standards, a normal person. True, she came from a kingly family (She was a descendant of David), but it had been almost a thousand years since the time of King David and nearly six hundred years since the last of her ancestors sat on the throne of Israel.

And so, Mary was a commoner. A young girl from a poor family, engaged to a simple carpenter. But Mary *was* a woman of great faith. And it was this faith that the Lord saw, and used.

Mary was astonished by God's call, not only because she was a virgin, but because the Messiah was expected to come with great power and authority and Mary was hardly a likely candidate to be the mother of such a person. But in spite of her doubts, in spite of the difficulties she knew she would face as an unwed mother in that society, Mary trusted in God. "I am the Lord's servant", she said to the angel, "May it be to me as you have said".

He Was Born In A Stable Bare

Read Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

There were a lot of people in Bethlehem that night. The census required that all people return to their ancestral hometown to be counted. And so the inns were full and the people in Bethlehem, most of them weary from long journeys themselves, were in no mood to further their discomfort by admitting another family into the already overtaxed facilities, particularly when the woman was possibly already in labor.

And so, with nowhere else to go, the family went into a cave where animals were kept. And there, in the cold and the smell, wrapped in cloth and laid in a feeding trough, was the Son of God.

Hallelujah

Read Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

For thousands of years God had spoken through the prophets and promised a Savior; the means by which our sins would be forgiven, and the fellowship with God, which we gave up when Adam and Eve chose to place their own will before His, could be restored.

At last the day had come! Christ The Lord was born, and a great multitude of angels heralded this event of unequalled importance.

The Holy Child

Lesson: Revelation 5:1-5 and 11-14 (Paraphrased Below)

Tell me; what does Christmas mean to you? Is it just an age-old story about a child's birth, sandwiched between lots of running around? Or is it more than that?

When we have a birthday it is not an infant in a crib that we celebrate. We celebrate the person that we have become. Christmas should not only point back in time to a baby in a manger. As remarkable as the birth was, the life was more remarkable by far. No, Christmas should also point to now, today. Today to the person that He is. The Messiah.

In the book of Revelation the apostle John spoke of his first-hand experience with the King Of Glory. "Then I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll"". "But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep, the Lamb of God has triumphed, He is able to open the scroll". Then John goes on to report "Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels numbering thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircle the throne and the cherubim and the elders. In a loud voice they sang; "Worthy is the lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise". "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them, singing; "To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever":. The cherubim said "Amen" and the elders fell down and worshiped.