**GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE**

Luke 2:1-20 (10-11)

*““But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”*

1. What was the political situation in the world at the time of Jesus’ birth? (1-2)What was it like to live in a colony under the power of Rome (3)? What was Mary’s condition as she and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem (4)? Why did they make such a long journey (5)?
2. Who was the son born to Mary (6-7)? Where was he born? Why was he born in such pitiful conditions? What does this tell us about men’s hearts at that time? What does it teach us about our God (Jn 1:14[[1]](#footnote-1))?
3. To whom did God send the angels with the first announcement of the birth of the Savior (8a)? What were they doing at the time and what happened (8b-9)? What was their first response (9)? What did the angel say to them (10)? For whom is this good news given (10)? How does Jesus’ birth fulfil God’s promises (11; Mic 5:2[[2]](#footnote-2))? Why is he called a Savior (Gal 3:8[[3]](#footnote-3))? Why is he Christ the Lord (Gen 3:15[[4]](#footnote-4); Col 2:9[[5]](#footnote-5))?
4. What is the impact of Jesus’ birth to God and to people (12-14)? What is the meaning of “those on whom his favor rests” (14b)? When the angels left, what did the shepherds say (15)? What did they do (16-17)? What was the response of people (18)? What did Mary do (19-20)?
1. **John 1:14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Mic 5:2** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Gal 3:8** Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Gen 3:15** And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **Col 2:9** For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [↑](#footnote-ref-5)