

Good News — With, Without & Beyond Comprehension

I. The Season & The Stories

Christmas is a season of connection, hope, generosity. (alienation, despair) We can be reminded of or distracted from the focus. Pressures, family, **gift giving**.

Good stories — Joseph & Mary, Bethlehem, “no room at the inn,” the manger, the shepherds, Herod the Great, the wise men, and the celebration by angels. Stories we need to tell our children.

The REAL STORY is that the birth of Jesus is the appearance of God himself in human flesh.

He became one of us to be **present within his creation**

to experience **our suffering** to redeem us **with His own**

to **reveal God to us and Us to Us**. In Jesus we see who God is, how he behaves, and how he relates to people. We see God when we see Jesus.

Repainting the Damaged Masterpiece

RESTORE the Image & set us **FREE** from distortion.

II. The Goodness of God in the Badness of Man

Matt 1:1 ESV The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

2 Abraham was the father of **Isaac**, and Isaac the father of **Jacob**, and Jacob ... of **Judah** and his brothers, **3** and Judah ... of **Perez** and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez ... of **Hezron**, and Hezron ... of **Ram**, ... **5** and **Salmon** ... of **Boaz** by **Rahab**, and Boaz ... of **Obed** by **Ruth**, and Obed ... of **Jesse**,

6 and Jesse ... of **David** the king. And David was ... of **Solomon** by **the wife of Uriah**, **7** and **Solomon** ... of **Rehoboam**, and Re-

hoboam ... of Abijah, and **Abijah** ...¹⁰ and **Hezekiah** ... **Manasseh**, and ...

16 and **Jacob** ... of **Joseph the husband** of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Were any of them aware that God would reveal Himself as Father, who would give His Son as the greatest gift?

Their messy lives were carrying genes that would be switched on or off and passed on to become the human basis of the INCARNATION!

Do we comprehend what is passing through our lives? What role we play in future glories not yet known?

1 Cor 2:9 ... no eye has seen, ... no ear has heard, what God has **prepared** for those who love him"—

III. Opening the Door of Salvation – in need a hinge or two to Swing On

A. The Squeaky Hinge *GABRIEL'S 1ST MISSION:*

Luke 1:5 NIV In the time of **Herod** ... there was a **priest named Zechariah**,

18 Zechariah asked the angel, "**How can I be sure of this?** I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

19 The angel answered, "**I am Gabriel.** I stand in the presence of God, and I have been **sent** to speak to you and to tell you **this good news.** **20** And now **you will be silent and not able to speak** until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

Disappointment had closed his heart. Encounter & Contemplation transformed him. **WD-40** silenced the squeaky hinge.

B. The Hinge of Promise *GABRIEL'S 2ND MISSION:*

In the world of Caesar's Imperial Power, no one was less threatening than a teenage girl in a backwater village.

Luke 1:26 NIV In the sixth month, God **sent** the **angel Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

30 But the angel said to her, "**Do not be afraid**, Mary, you have found favor with God. **31** You will **be with child** and **give birth to a son**, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**. **32** He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High**. The Lord God will give him the **throne** of his father David, **33** and he will **reign...forever**.

34 "**How will this be,**" Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will **overshadow*** you. So the **holy one** to be born will be called the **Son of God**. ...

37 For **nothing is impossible with God**."

38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May it be to me as you have said**." Then the angel left her.

Did she comprehend? Her obedience of faith opened humanity to divinity, gave the "Yes" of faith to the RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS!

OPENED HERSELF TO IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBILITIES

Wide Open: A Portal for Promise

Luke 1:39 NIV At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ... **41** When Elizabeth **heard** Mary's greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**. ... **44** As soon as the **sound** of your greeting reached my ears, the **baby in my womb leaped for joy**. **45** [Happy] Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be **fulfilled!**" (final completeness)

46 And Mary said: "My **soul [magnifies]** the Lord **47** and my **spirit rejoices** in God my Savior, **48** for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me [**happy**] **blessed**, **49** for the Mighty One has done **great**

things for me — holy is his name. **50** His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

She is transformed by receiving the implanted WORD alive within her (able to save her). Carried FAVOR! So the future implications become “done deeds” in her soul and spirit.

51 He **has performed** mighty deeds with his arm; he **has scattered** those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ..

C. The Hinge of a Dreamer’s Dream

Matt 1:20 NIV But after he had **considered** this, an angel of the Lord **appeared to him in a dream** and said, “Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife**, because what is **conceived** in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will **save his people from their sins.**”

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

OPENED THE DOOR TO THE DREAM OF GOD!

III. SWING Wide the Door of Salvation

A. Outsiders on the Inside!

Luke 2:8 ESV And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and ***the glory of the Lord shone around them***, and they were ***filled with great fear***. **10** And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I **bring** you ***good news of great joy*** that will be for ***all the people***. **11** For **unto you** is born **this day** in the city of David a **Savior**, who is **Christ** the **Lord**. **12** And this will be a sign for you: **you will find a baby** wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

Bringing **GOOD NEWS** of **GREAT JOY!** For **ALL PEOPLE!**

To YOU! Is born **TODAY** (the New Day, The Dayspring)

Savior**Christ****Lord**

You will find a baby (in need of care, full of promise and undeveloped potential) wrapped in cloths **in a manger... in a tomb.**

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** among those with whom he is pleased!” [goodwill to, on whom his favor rests]

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “**Let us go** over to Bethlehem and **see** this thing (rhema) that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the **saying** (rhema) that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And **all who heard it wondered** at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary **treasured up** all these **things** (rhema), pondering them in her heart.

B. The Ancient and the New

Embracing the Promise

Luke 2:25 ESV Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and **the Holy Spirit was upon him.** 26 And it had been **revealed** to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he **came in the Spirit into the temple**, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 **he took him up in his arms** and blessed God and said,

29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant **depart in peace**, according to your word (rhema);

He took the SAVIOR into his arms, and thus was ready to depart in peace.

30 for **my eyes have seen your salvation** The Connection

31 that **you have *prepared* in the presence of all peoples,**
The PREPARATION in all the human activity. Genealogies. Political
and Historical movements. So that in the FULLNESS of time, He
would be born of a woman. Divinity and Humanity

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
Turning on the LIGHT! Pulling back the covering
and for glory to your people Israel."

The Full GLORY of Israel!

33 And **his father and his mother *marveled* at what was said about
him.** 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,
"Behold, **this child** is appointed for the fall and rising of many in
Israel, and for **a sign** that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce
through your own soul also), so that thoughts from **many hearts
may be revealed.**"

Ministry: Opening the Dream Doors (*Swing Me!*)

Do we comprehend what is passing through our lives? What role
we play in future glories not yet known?

Disappointed by long delay

Open to IMPOSSIBLE possibilities

Dream with God

SWING ME OPEN!

SEE WHAT God HAS PREPARED for those....