

PRAYING THROUGH THE CHRISTMAS STORY (Luke 2)

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Luke 2:1-5 (NKJV) – The Kingly Line of Judah

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So, all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

- Jesus descended from the house of David, the kingly line of Judah. We celebrate the gift God gave to us in being co-heirs with Jesus in His eternal kingdom (Romans 8:17).

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your one and only Son, Jesus, to this earth. Thank You for making Him rightful King, and for making us co-heirs to rule and reign with Him. We pray for those who do not have a place to call home, and pray that they would find You this season and know that they belong to You.

Luke 2:6-7 – The Time for Habitation

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

- Jesus is continually revealing Himself to us and looking for a place to dwell.

Lord Jesus, we welcome You in this place! We desire to be a habitation of Your presence, and a people who make room for You in our lives. May we be a family, a community, and a nation who acknowledges Your Name and invites You to come and be with us, Emmanuel.

Luke 2:8-10 – The Watch Brings the Glory of the Lord

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”

- As we watch and wait for His coming, His glory is revealed and displaces all our fears.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving us joy instead of fear, gladness instead of mourning. We acknowledge the heavenly host that announces Your word, which brings us hope and a future. Help us to keep watch and recognize Your workings in our lives. May our fears and doubts give way to joy as we acknowledge Your

activity all around us.

Luke 2:11-14 – Heaven Announces God’s Peace

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!”

- Our praises declare to the world that Jesus is the Prince of Peace

Father, we join with the angels and say, “Glory to God in the highest!” May we be carriers of Your praise, and may we boldly declare Your Lordship to a world that is looking for a Redeemer. May our praises usher in Your presence to bring peace to a world at war with itself, and may all men come to know You as the Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:15-18 – We Announce the Presence of Christ

So, it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe, lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

- Those who see the Savior do not hesitate to spread the good news of His coming.

Lord Jesus, just as the shepherds heeded Your word, may we also faithfully follow where You lead us. May we share the good news of Your presence with the joy and excitement of the shepherds on the very first night of Your birth. May all who hear of Your saving grace this season be filled with wonder and awe as we worship You.

Luke 2:19-20 – Anchored in Faith, Secure in the Promise

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

- Our encounters with Christ will secure our faith and embolden our witness.

Lord Jesus, we thank You for coming in the flesh and revealing the Father’s love to us. Draw us into closer communion with You so that we will testify to others from a first-hand experience and knowledge of Your grace and goodness. May we, as Your people, continue to speak with boldness and share with those who are hurting so that all men may be saved.