



THE
GIFT OF
CHRISTMAS

Definition of Joy

Joy is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness, delight, or exhilaration, often a deep, internal state. It also refers to a thing or person that brings great happiness, outward expressions of delight, or even a triumphant spiritual state.



¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

LUKE 2:1-4 ESV

⁵ [he went] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ 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!**”

The Savior-Deliverer (Christus Victor)

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him [i.e., in/through **JESUS**].

The Servant Messiah

¹ Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

ISAIAH 42:1-3 ESV

The Lord (God)

⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

The Wonder of the Gift

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a **manger.**”

The Proof About the Gift

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!”

The Joy of Salvation:

- Experience the Gift (Identity, Wonder, Proof)

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 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.

The Joy of Salvation:

- Experience the Gift (Identity, Wonder, Proof)
- Respond in Faith to the Gift

¹⁷ And when they saw it [the baby], they made known the **saying** 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, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LUKE 2:17-20 ESV

The Joy of Salvation:

- Experience the Gift (Identity, Wonder, Proof)
- Respond in Faith to the Gift
- Share the Gift with Others

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,
²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.