

Your Best Christmas Ever  
Luke 2:1-20

Luke 2:1-20 (HCSB)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough--because there was no room for them at the inn. In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David. This will be the sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors! When the angels had left them and returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard, just as they had been told.

I. Submission to the Will of God

Luke 2:4-5 (HCSB)

And Joseph also went up to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

II. Celebration of the Son of God

Psalms 145 (NIV)

Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

III. Realization of the Peace of God

Luke 2:14 (NIV)

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Acts 10:36 (NIV)

"You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all."

Romans 5:1 (NIV)

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

#### IV. Devotion to the Mission of God

Luke 2:17-18 (HCSB)

After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

#### V. Appreciation of the Wonder of God

Luke 2:19 (HCSB)

But Mary was treasuring up all these things in her heart and meditating on them.