



Joy Ride!



¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is [e]Christ the Lord."



Who Experienced Joy Because of That Night?

Angels

Shepherds

Mary and Joseph

Wise Men

Simeon the prophet:



Nunc Dimmitis – Luke 2:25 -

- ²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking 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 [i]Christ. ²⁷ And **he came in the Spirit** into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, [k]to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸ then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,
 - ²⁹ "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹ Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² A LIGHT [!]OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."



But There is Another ...

- Can you think of anyone else who was filled with Joy at the coming of Jesus into the world?
- What about the Great I AM, The God of Angel Armies, Abba Father, Who has been looking forward to this moment from before the FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD?
- Who has been waiting and watching and yearning and planning for this Kairos moment – the fullness of time when His plan for rescuing the objects of His love, His “poemas” from the pain/penalty of sin and death and securing their destiny with Him FOR ALL ETERNITY?
- Don’t you think He was one resounding mass of REJOICING????



He is the God of JOY!

- We freely acknowledge and celebrate His nature as Love, but His Love for us is manifested in us as JOY!
- Just to be clear at the very beginning, Joy - whether we are talking about OT Hebrew (*chedvah*) or NT Greek (*Chara*), the message is the same – means something has FILLED us with Gladness or has moved us to REJOICE.
- And whether you realize it or not, JOY is one of the most compelling aspects of the Nature of GOD!!



The Joy of the Lord

- The LORD your God is in your midst, A [e]victorious warrior. He will **exult** over you with **joy**, He will [f]be quiet in His love, He will **rejoice** over **YOU** with shouts of **joy**. Zeph. 3:17
- ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the **joy of the LORD is your strength.**" Nehemiah 8:10
- HIS JOY; The JOY He experiences when he thinks of YOU!!!! And THAT Joy pouring over us is STRENGTH.



But WAIT, There's More!

- John 15:11 - These things I have spoken to you so that **My joy** may be in YOU, and *that* **your joy may be made full**.
- John 17:13 - ¹³ But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have **My joy** made full in themselves. (To the MAX)
- Hebrews 12:2 - ² [a]fixing our eyes on Jesus, the [b]author and perfecter of faith, who **for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- To be clear, the JOY THAT FILLED HIS HEART WHEN HE THOUGHT OF YOU, sustained Him all the way to the Cross – His heart was filled with Gladness all the way



He is a JOY Machine-Gal.5

But the fruit that the Spirit produces is ...

love, **joy**, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-
control



Invitation to a JOY RIDE

- He floods our hearts with HIS JOY through the Power of the HOLY SPIRIT, strengthening us when we have no strength or hope or power or joy of our own
- The realization that we bring HIM Joy and we are the object of His gladness and rejoicing – JUST BECAUSE – then Floods our hearts with MORE JOY, because just coming to an understanding of this eternal truth creates an extra stream of rejoicing and gladness in us that the circumstances of the world CANNOT CRUSH OR KILL OR STEAL FROM US!!!
- And then the anticipation of seeing Him face to face and entering into our eternal destiny produces even MORE JOY!!!
- And Finally, we will see Him face to face, WHEN BOTH HIS JOY AND OUR JOY WILL BE PERTUALLY IGNITED IN A FLAME OF GLORY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Joy

to the

World

the

L O R D I S C O M E





REJOICE, in Him We ARE

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; **a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY!!!!**