



bloodline *network newsletter*

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JOY TO THE WORLD

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. 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 clothes, 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!"

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.

LUKE 2:8-17

Jesus came into the world to REDEEM all creation from the curse. We celebrate the good news!

“It all happened in a most remarkable moment ... a moment like no other ...” wrote Max Lucado. “God became a man. Divinity arrived. Heaven opened herself and placed her most precious one in a human womb...The omnipotent, in one instant, became flesh.”

Each year the historical account is read at Christmas as a remembrance of Jesus’ birth. Can we even imagine the splendor of such a moment in time ... the magic of a portal opening and heaven coming to earth?

= THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband,

being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

MATTHEW 1: 18-23

At the time of Christ's birth the Israelites came together for the three major feast days. During their gatherings the Torah was read aloud by the High Priest. God wanted His people to understand their history as a nation and that they were the chosen people of an Almighty and All Powerful King.

The holiday season celebrates Divine Intervention. "Without Christ, both the earth and mankind would be doomed. But Christ came, died, and rose from the grave. He brought deliverance, not destruction"—deliverance by *resurrection*.

= **WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

MATTHEW 2:1-6

Wise Men saw the star in the sky and searched for a king. They logically went to Herod in Jerusalem but didn't find the king because 'the Christ' was birthed *outside* the POLITICAL system.

Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes together only to discover that 'the Christ' was also birthed *outside* the RELIGIOUS system. It's to shepherds watching their flocks that the heavenly host sang on the night of Christ's birth—not to the recognized 'authority' in Israel but to 'laborers.'

= **A VOICE FROM HEAVEN**

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

MATTHEW 3:17

Years later when John the Baptist baptized Jesus, God's Voice proclaimed His pleasure in His only Begotten Son at the beginning of His ministry—and again it's not to the company of the Levitical Priesthood but among the brethren in the wilderness.

When Jesus called His twelve disciples—He chose those ‘outside’ the traditional religious and political systems to set up His Kingdom in the earth. His choices were mainly laborers—fisherman and a tax collector.

Wise men searched to discern the form and shape of this ‘Holy Thing’ long before it was birthed in the earth. The Wise Men of old awakened the religious and political systems—just think what may happen if we search for the manifestation of ‘the risen Christ’ in the Body?

= **THE DAWN OF REDEEMING GRACE**

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, **2 PETER 1:19-20**

King Jesus was born in a little stable in Bethlehem. Likewise the Body of Christ emerges from a humble position in the earth. Not everyone sees what’s happening because it’s ‘inside’ the spiritual tabernacle—it’s in the heart of man.

Those who comprehend His Light in the day of redeeming grace, speak of the corporate man. They assemble together as an army of believers in all ranks and positions to function in the outworking of God’s tabernacle in the earth.

We celebrate Jesus’ Birthday ... so thankful that His Word became flesh ... and ever grateful to be born again in Him.

= **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Isaac Watts penned a translation of Psalm 98 that was published in 1917. In 1839 “Joy to the World” was put to music. It is a song still cherished for its triumphant exaltation of the birth of Jesus Christ.

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove, The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

God rules the world in truth and grace! He'll only be satisfied when *every SIN, every SORROW, every THORN* is REDEEMED—'*far as the curse is found.*'

God loves us exceedingly, abundantly, above anything we can imagine—simply because we are His children. God wants the best for us—it's the wonders of His love!

“Let us shout joyously before the Lord, the King! Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things!”

Roger and Karen Roth are the set ministry of a local church in Northeastern Wisconsin. They are a ministry son of Dr. Hanby, and along with writing the Bloodline articles each month, they are directors of a portion of Dr. Hanby's ministry called THE FATHER'S HEART.

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