

A blue-toned landscape with a bright sun or star in the sky and silhouettes of camels in the foreground.

For Unto Us A Child is Born...

Isaiah 9:6

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- The Birth and initial coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is a miraculous and wonderful event.
- It demonstrates the fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy, the security of eternal redemption.



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- It is humble but powerful in its divine nature.
- It is a narrative, of hope, joy, happiness, peace, and even divine providence.
- It is the fulfillment of prophecy and it directly effects each and every one of us.

The Word Became Flesh





For Unto Us A Child is Born

- Jesus left Heaven specifically for the salvation of our souls from sin.

But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

~ **Philippians 2:7-8**



For Unto Us A Child is Born

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that **though He was rich, yet** for your sakes **He became poor**, that you through His poverty might become **rich**.

~ 2 Corinthians 8:9



For Unto Us A Child is Born

We would expect a king, specifically the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's, to have come with all the pomp and circumstance that could royally be given at that time.

Most people would expect that a King who would save the world from sin and death would have...

Adoring Subjects Fighting to See Him



His Birth Heralded Throughout the World



The Most Luxurious Accommodations



A Grand Palace in Which to Grow Up



A Powerful Army to Protect Him



...And An Empire To Rule



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- Yet Jesus came into this world with none of these things.
- Our King would never know what it was like to be pampered, spoiled, or regarded with universal love and favor.
- In fact the world Jesus grew up and preached in was quite the opposite...

The First to See Jesus Would Have Most Likely Been Farm Animals



No Herald With A Proud Announcement



Less Than Meager Accommodations



A Humble Home on A Carpenter's Pay



Faced Danger Even As A Baby



Rejected and Murdered By His Own



Ruling Today Over A Spiritual Kingdom



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- How Is this a good and positive story?
- The story of Christ's birth is powerful because of what it represents.
- It was the coming of the Messiah, that would pay for our sins once and for all, and defeat death for each of us.

The Birth Announcement



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- The Angel Gabriel was sent to the city of Nazareth (**Luke 1:26**)
- There he would meet a virgin named Mary, Betrothed to a man named Joseph (**1:27**)
- Gabriel told Mary She had found favor with God and would have a Son named Jesus (**1:30-32**).

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- He would be great, receive David's throne, reign over Israel forever, and his kingdom would never end **(1:33-34)**
- The Holy Spirit will come over you and God's power will make this happen... this child will be the Son of God **(1:35)**
- "For With God Nothing Will Be Impossible."
(1:37)

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- Joseph, Mary's betrothed, after finding out she was with child was going to quietly end their betrothal (**Matthew 1:19**).
- Before He could do so an angel of the Lord came to Joseph and told him that the child in her womb was from the Holy Spirit (**1:20**)

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- He tells Joseph that this child would save people from their sins and his birth is the fulfillment of prophecy from Isaiah **(1:21-23; Isaiah 7:14)**.
- Joseph then has a change of mind and does not end the betrothal **(1:24-25)**.

The Birth of Christ



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- How was Jesus born in Bethlehem when Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth?

This happened because the Roman Empire, who ruled Galilee, ordered a census of their entire Empire (**Luke 2:1**)

Every person had to go to be registered to the city where their lineage was from (**Luke 2:3**)

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- Since Joseph was of the lineage of David he had to be registered in Bethlehem, and since he would soon be married to Mary he took her with him to register her as well (**Luke 2:5-6**).
- Bethlehem was a town of about 800-1,000 people. At any normal time there would not be a lot of people there, but because of the census the town was overcrowded.

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- While they were in Bethlehem Mary's time to deliver Jesus had come **(Luke 2:6)**
- Because of the census there was no room in the inn, no secure place to deliver this baby **(2:7)**
- Somehow they found a place **(in all likelihood a barn)** where Mary could deliver Jesus **(2:7)**

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- The Son of God was not born in a palace, he was born in a barn, wrapped in clothes, and laid in a feeding trough that was designed for the animals **(2:7)**.
- Yet, God still fulfilled His promise, the Son of God had arrived, the promise to the Seed of Abraham and the world was here!

Keeping Watch By Night



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- While all of this was happening in Bethlehem, a few miles away in fields beyond Bethlehem some shepherds were watching their flocks at night (**Luke 2:8**).
- An Angel of the Lord appeared to these shepherds with the glory of God shining all around the angel (**2:9**)



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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 cloths, lying in a manger.” **(continued)**



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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!”

~ Luke 2:10-14

It is from these verses that the line from one of our most sung hymns was born...



Tell Me The Story of Jesus

~ Fanny J. Crosby & John R. Sweeney

Tell me the Story of Jesus

Write on My Heart Every Word

Tell Me the Story Most Precious

Sweetest that Ever was Heard

Tell How the Angels in Chorus

Sang as They Welcomed His Birth

Glory to God in the Highest

Peace and Good Tidings on Earth.

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- This Heavenly chorus was a praise to God for His compassion toward man, victory over death, the keeping of divine promises, and His unquestionable power and love.
- This was a victory chorus for God who had sacrificed His Son and delivered the Word in Flesh to the world.

For Unto Us A Child is Born

Why was this revealed to shepherds and not the more powerful governing authorities?

- Because the nature of Christ and his ministry was humble (**Matthew 11:28**).
- Because it would be the Good Shepherd who would lead His flock, and even die for them:



For Unto Us A Child is Born

I am the good shepherd. The Good shepherd gives His life for the sheep... I am the good shepherd; and I know my sheep, and am known by My own.

~ **John 10:11, 14**

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- It would be qualified Elders who would shepherd the church after Christ had ascended back to heaven.

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all **the** flock, among which **the** Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **shepherd the church of God** which He purchased with His own blood.*

~ Acts 20:28

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- It was a grand announcement to humble shepherds watching over their flocks, and a tremendous foreshadowing of the role of our Savior and Church.
- They left immediately and went to find Jesus and when they did find Him they glorified God and spread the news of His birth **(2:15-20)**.

Jesus' Life in Danger



For Unto Us A Child is Born

- Wise men (magi) had come from the east, having seen the star that was prophesied about thousands of years before (**Matthew 2:1-2**)

I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

~ **Numbers 24:17**

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- Herod the king was troubled upon finding out that Messiah had been born and when he asked where Jesus was born and Isaiah 7:14 was quoted to him, he sent the wise men to verify that Christ was there and lied saying he wanted to worship Jesus (**Matthew 2:3-8**)
- The wise men followed the star to Bethlehem found Jesus and worshipped Him and even gave gifts (**2:9-11**)

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- The wise men were told in a dream not to go back to Herod and so they went home the another way **(2:12)**.
- Joseph was then told in a dream to take Jesus and Mary and flee to Egypt because Herod was going to Kill Jesus **(2:13)**.

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- Herod found out that he had been deceived and was angry and made a decree to kill all the male children two years old and under in Bethlehem **(2:16)**
- Herod died a few months later **(slow, horrible, painful death)** and Joseph returned home to Nazareth with Jesus and Mary **(2:19-20)**.

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- From His return to Nazareth until he began His ministry we learn that Jesus:

Increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

~ Luke 2:52

Lessons Learned From The Birth of Christ





For Unto Us A Child is Born

- 1. God works on His own Schedule Not Mine (Acts 1:7)**
- 2. The Will of God Will Always Be Done (Isaiah 55:9)**
- 3. God Will Guide Everyone Who Wishes to Follow Him (John 21:19; Hebrews 13:7).**

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- 4. Those Who Oppose God have made the Ultimate Enemy (Romans 1:18).**
- 5. God Protects His Children (Psalm 138:7).**
- 6. Sometimes sacrifice for good can cost us much (John 3:16).**
- 7. God Keeps His Promises (Deuteronomy 7:9).**

For Unto Us A Child is Born

- While the main focus of the New Testament is on the Death Burial and Resurrection of Jesus, the birth of Christ is not void of valuable lessons for the world today.
- It is the beginning of a life lived in service to God, the promise of hope for salvation, and the symbolism of eternal salvation being made for all.

Are You Ready To Begin Anew



A Life That Will Lead You to Heaven?