



A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4).

For about four hundred years, heaven seemed silent. From the last words of the prophet Malachi to the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, Israel lived with no new prophets, no new scriptures, and no direct voice from God. It felt as if the heavens had become completely still.

Yet even in that silence, God’s plan was still moving forward. Kingdoms rose and fell, just as the prophet Daniel had predicted long before. The Persians, the Greeks, and finally the Romans ruled over the Jewish people—each empire shaping the world in ways that prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

When Alexander the Great conquered much of the known world, Greek became the common language. This made communication easier across many nations. Later, this same language—Koine Greek—became the language of the New Testament, allowing the message of Christ to spread widely when “the fullness of time had come.”

After Greece, Rome took control. The Romans built a vast empire known for its long period of peace, called the *Pax Romana*. With peace came well-built roads that connected cities across the empire. These roads worked like the “internet” of the ancient world, making travel and communication fast for their time. I have walked on some of these old Roman roads in Rome, Corinth, Athens, and Philippi, and even after two thousand years, they still hold strong. It is easy to imagine how impressive they were when they were first built.

Daniel’s prophecy continued to unfold through history. In 167 BC, the Seleucid king Antiochus IV Epiphanes dishonored the Jewish Temple, which led to the Maccabean Revolt. His cruelty earned him the nickname “the Antichrist of the Old Testament,” hinting at the future Antichrist still to come. Under the leadership of the Maccabee family, the Jewish people won back some freedom—a victory still remembered today in the celebration of Hanukkah.

During times when the Temple was defiled or could not be reached, synagogues became important places for worship,

teaching, and community. These local gatherings would later be the first places where the apostles preached the message of the risen Christ. Everything was being set in place—quietly and perfectly—for the right moment in history.

And then, the silence finally ended.

The world, prepared over centuries, stood ready. The prophets had pointed to this moment. Heaven, still for so long, began to move again. Angels appeared—not to rulers or the powerful, but to simple shepherds watching their flocks at night.

Into the quiet fields of Bethlehem, the voice of heaven returned.

“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.” 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, NKJV).

The silence was finally broken. The Savior had arrived.

On this holy night, the first people to hear the message were shepherds out in the fields. Through them, the news began to spread to everyone who was willing to listen. The good news was never meant for only a few—it was for anyone with an open heart.

The long quiet from heaven had ended, and the way of salvation was beginning to open for the entire world.

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Galatians 4:4). The moment finally came. Perfect and exactly on time. Jesus arrived not a second too early or too late. God’s timing is never rushed and never delayed. In that sacred moment, eternity entered human history.

That night was the first time in centuries that God publicly spoke again through His angels. His voice was once more heard on the earth. From that first Christmas night until today, God has continued to speak in many different ways. The age of silence is gone forever.

Scholars say the opening verses of Hebrews are some of the most powerful words ever written. So beautiful in the original Greek that no translation can fully capture their greatness, even though their meaning and truth remain clear.

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the

angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:1–4).

Mary knew this moment would come. The angel Gabriel, God’s messenger, had visited her with incredible news: even though she was a virgin, she would become pregnant with the Son of God and name Him Jesus. She was probably only fifteen to nineteen years old, which was normal in a time when people didn’t live long and adulthood began early. Yet this young woman was given the greatest honor in human history. Jesus would be born of a virgin. Truly the Son of Man and fully the Son of God.

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:26–35, NKJV).

Joseph was not surprised when heaven’s message filled the fields that night. Long before the angels lit up the sky, God had already told him the truth in a dream. Gabriel had appeared to Mary in person, but to Joseph, who was quiet, fair, and careful. God sent an angel during the calm of the night. In that dream, God prepared Joseph’s heart before the four hundred years of silence finally ended in a public way.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows...” Mary, though engaged to Joseph, was discovered to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, being an honorable man, struggled quietly with what he should do. But while he was thinking about all of this, heaven entered his dreams:

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as 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.”

The ancient prophecy began to come true: *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a Son, and they shall call His*

name Immanuel”—“God with us” (Matthew 1:18-23).

Joseph woke with a calm heart and did as he was told. Faithful. Quiet. Willing. A man ready for a sacred task.

I often think of Joseph during the Christmas season. Much is rightly said about Mary, chosen and honored to carry the Savior into the world. But Mary is not our mediator, nor the way to God, as Scripture makes clear:

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all” (1 Timothy 2:5-6).

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

Yet Joseph, though often quiet in our stories, lived a life worth noticing. He was chosen to be the earthly, adoptive father of Jesus, a humble carpenter, poor by worldly standards but rich in obedience. His life was short, but his role was important. After the incident at the temple when Jesus was twelve, Joseph disappears from Scripture, leading many to believe he died before Jesus began His ministry. Perhaps this was part of God’s plan: when Jesus spoke of “*My Father*,” it would be clear He meant the Father in heaven.

Michael Card captures Joseph’s heart in the tender lyrics of *Joseph’s Song*:

*How could it be, this baby in my arms,
Sleeping now so peacefully?
The Son of God, the angel said—
How could it be?*

*Lord, I know He’s not my own,
Not of my flesh, not of my bone.
Still, Father, let this baby be
The son of my love.*

*Father show me where I fit, Into this plan of yours.
How can a man be father to the Son of God?
Lord, for all my life, I’ve been a simple carpenter.
How can I raise a King? How can I raise a King?*

These words make my eyes well with tears. I imagine Joseph and Mary whispering in the dark, “*How can we raise a King?*” How could two poor, unknown young people carry the weight of such glory?

The truth for them and for us is the same:
We walk by trust, one day at a time, under the faithful leading of the Lord.

“Do not worry about tomorrow... Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34).

“Give us today our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). Daily dependence, like manna in the wilderness.

“Praise be to the Lord... who daily bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:19).

“His mercies... are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart... and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him...” (Psalm 37:5).

“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You” (Isaiah 26:3-4).

Day by day. Step by step. The same God who led Joseph leads us still.

Both Matthew and Luke understood how important it was to record the family line of Jesus Christ, a line that stretches through the course of history itself. For more than two thousand years, scholars have studied these names, finding meaning and wonder in each one. Found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, these genealogies are more than simple lists; they are living proof of God’s faithful plan.

The Fulfillment of God’s Promises to Israel

Both genealogies go back to Abraham, the father of faith, showing Jesus as the promised descendant through whom all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3). Matthew also emphasizes that Jesus is a direct descendant of David, the rightful heir to an eternal throne (2 Samuel 7:12-16). Here is the promised Messiah—the Son of David—the King people had waited for through the ages.

Truly Human, Truly Divine

The genealogy places Jesus firmly in real history. He did not come from myth or legend but was born into a real human family. Paul says He was “made of the seed of David according to the flesh” (Romans 1:3). Fully human, yet divinely conceived, Jesus connects heaven and earth.

A Story of Grace and Redemption

Jesus’ family includes people whose lives were full of struggle and redemption: Tamar, who fought for justice; Rahab, once a woman of Jericho’s streets; Ruth, a foreigner who found a home; Bathsheba, caught in David’s failings; and Manasseh, a wicked king. This family tree shows a powerful truth: God’s grace works through flawed, unexpected people. No past is too broken for His love to redeem.

Different Perspectives, One Truth

Matthew traces Jesus through Joseph, highlighting His legal right to David’s throne and presenting Him as the Messiah-King to a Jewish audience. Structured in three sets of fourteen generations, it shows His royal heritage. Luke’s genealogy, likely through Mary, goes all the way back to Adam, emphasizing Jesus as the Savior of all humanity—the Son of Man. Together, these accounts declare: Jesus is both King of the Jews and Savior of the world.

Anchored in Real History

Ancient genealogies were legal records. By including Jesus' lineage, Scripture shows He is not a legend but a real person, born into real families and cultures. Christianity is built on historical truth, not myth.

God's Patient, Unfolding Plan

Generation by generation, empire by empire, and covenant by covenant, God's faithfulness moves through time. The genealogy is a timeline of His preparation, leading to "the fullness of time" (Galatians 4:4) when Jesus came. It shows that nothing—sin, failure, or centuries of waiting—can stop God's promises.

Prophetic Confirmation

The Messiah was foretold to come from Judah, the house of David, the family of Abraham, born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), and in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Jesus' genealogy fulfills these prophecies, proving that He alone is the promised One.

In Summary: The Meaning of the Genealogy

This family line shows who Jesus really is: the Messiah, the rightful heir to David's throne, the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, fully human, and the Savior for the whole world. It also shows God's grace at work through imperfect people and His faithfulness across all generations.

Through this genealogy, God quietly speaks to us: "This is the One. This is My Son. This is your Savior."

Often overlooked in the Christmas story, the genealogy reminds us that Jesus came "in the fullness of time." It is more than a list of names—it is a tapestry of grace, a thread of promises woven through centuries of waiting.

Each ancestor is like a light in the darkness of history, showing the way to the One who would come. It tells us that God works through ordinary people—shepherds and kings, wanderers and widows, the faithful and the flawed—moving His plan forward, not through perfection, but through His unchanging mercy.

From Abraham walking under desert stars, to David's songs from the fields, to Mary's quiet courage—this family line forms a path of hope. It reminds us that God keeps every promise He makes.

It also shows that Jesus entered a real story—blood, breath, and brokenness—into a family much like ours. Redemption grows from human history, fulfilling ancient words with living truth.

The genealogy stands as an invitation: God's plan was never rushed or forgotten. It unfolded patiently until the Light Himself entered the world, carrying the weight of every name before Him and offering grace to every name that would follow.

This Christmas, as we celebrate the Son of God—born to bring light to our darkness and hope to our hearts—let us remember the greatest gift: Jesus gave His all for us. The question now is yours—will you give your all to Him?

Make this Christmas the moment you open your heart fully to the One who came to save, heal, and restore. Let His love change your life today and forever.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, NKJV). †

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