

23 December

# Advent 2018



<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the Lord;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> God, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.  
— Hab. 3:18-19

## —THE BIBLICAL THEMES OF ADVENT—

### “JOY: HE HAS OPENED HEAVEN’S DOOR!”

#### Introduction: Where are you Christmas (Joy)?

- There seems to be an expectation this time of year that we are to be joyous.
  - ⇒ This is certainly because we are conditioned from \_\_\_\_\_ to be excited about receiving presents.
  - ⇒ It's also because of the times spent with friends and family which we are expected to \_\_\_\_\_.
- The holidays can be times of difficulty and ‘joy’ is not a term that many would use to describe their feelings.
  - ⇒ Many feel \_\_\_\_\_ to convey this feeling of joy.
  - ⇒ Others are \_\_\_\_\_ to recapture the feelings of joy that they used to associate with Christmas.

**Key Point:** *Biblically speaking, joy is something that God’s people are invited to experience \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as they worship and delight in Him and in the salvation He provides!*

#### The Biblical Terminology of Joy

*ἀγαλλιάω (agalliaō)* - In the LXX, this word is used to translate the terms גִּיל (giyl), ‘rejoice’ or ‘rejoicing,’ and רָנַן (ranan), ‘cry in joy.’ The term is used in the OT in reference to the worship of Yahweh (primarily in Psalms and Isaiah).

#### 1. This term is associated with a *personal/individual* worship of Yahweh.

*Psa. 9:2*—I will be glad and *exult* in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

*Psa. 13:5-6*—<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall *rejoice* in your salvation. <sup>6</sup> I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

*Psa. 71:23*—My lips will *shout for joy*, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

#### 2. It is used primarily, however, of *collective/corporate* worship of Yahweh.

*Psa. 68:3*—But the righteous shall be glad; they shall *exult* before God; they shall *be jubilant with joy!*

*Psa. 98:4*—Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into *joyous song* and sing praises!

*Psa. 149:2*—Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion *rejoice* in their King!

**Key Point:** Throughout the Psalms, joy is seen to be the natural expression of the believer both privately and publically in regards to God’s salvation which has been accomplished in the \_\_\_\_\_ and is now the \_\_\_\_\_ experience of the believer.

#### 3. In the prophets (Isaiah in particular) it is used of the *future* salvation which will be accomplished by Messiah.

*Isa. 25:9*—It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and *rejoice* in his salvation.”

*Isa. 61:10-11*—<sup>10</sup> I (*Messiah*) will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall *exult* in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

#### 4. All of creation, not only humanity, is expected to *respond* to the Lord with rejoicing.

*Psa. 96:11-13*—<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth *rejoice*; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; <sup>12</sup> let the field *exult*, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest *sing for joy* before the Lord, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

*Isa. 49:13*—*Sing for joy*, O heavens, and *exult*, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

**Key Point:** Joy is the natural response of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and all the rest of creation to the work of Messiah that He will accomplish in fulfillment of God’s plans and purposes.

## Let Men Their Songs Employ

Joy, both individual and collective, is referred to repeatedly throughout the Christmas narratives.

### **The Angel's Message to Zechariah**

Luke 1:13-15a—<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will *rejoice* at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great before the Lord.

⇒ *Joy was the response of John's parents as well as their friends and family to his conception and birth.*

### **Mary's Visit to Elizabeth**

Luke 1:41-45—<sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⇒ *Praise and rejoicing were the response of both Elizabeth and her child to the mother of Messiah.*

Luke 1:46-47—<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit *rejoices* in God my Savior

⇒ *Praise and rejoicing were Mary's response to truth of God's promises to her.*

### **The Message of the Angels to the Shepherds**

Luke 2:10-11—<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of *great joy* that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

⇒ *The announcement of Messiah's birth was to evoke joy in all those who had been waiting for the promises of God to be kept.*

**Key Point:** The coming of Messiah in fulfillment of God's \_\_\_\_\_ evoked praise and rejoicing.

## The Believer's Joy

### **1. The object of our joy is our \_\_\_\_\_ Savior and the salvation He has secured for us!**

1 Pet. 1:3-9—<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you *rejoice*, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and *rejoice with joy* that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

⇒ *We are to rejoice in our new \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ! (1:3)*

⇒ *We are to rejoice in our future \_\_\_\_\_! (1:4)*

⇒ *We are to rejoice in the \_\_\_\_\_ we have in Christ! (1:8-9)*

### **2. We are therefore \_\_\_\_\_ to rejoice and praise God continually.**

Phil. 4:4-7—<sup>4</sup> *Rejoice* in the Lord always; again I will say, *rejoice*. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⇒ *We are to rejoice \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord! (4:4)*

⇒ *We are to rejoice in \_\_\_\_\_ rather than being consumed with anxiety! (4:6)*

### **3. We anticipate \_\_\_\_\_ of joy in God's presence for eternity.**

Isa. 65:17-19—<sup>17</sup> “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. <sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. <sup>19</sup> I will *rejoice* in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

⇒ *God Himself \_\_\_\_\_ to rejoice over His kept promises to His people!*

Jude 24-25—<sup>24</sup> Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with *great joy*, <sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

⇒ *We will rejoice in God's \_\_\_\_\_ as we experience the fullness of our salvation!*