

“Behold, I Bring You Good News
Of Great Joy... (Luke 2:10)

Today, we come to think about the One we will celebrate this week; we come to this wonderful occasion as a family, the family called “A Grace Gathering” at Stonebriar Community Church. We come representing many families, but for a few moments we assemble as a “family” to remember, to remember the one who came, the one who heaven sent to us, the one who showed us the way, the One who in dying became for us the way, and the One who rose to fill us with expectation and hope that someday we will see a day when the earth will become silent and holy, when all will be calm and all will be bright.

In preparation for our time of special, symbolic remembrance, at the Table of Our Lord. I want to focus of His coming to us, not so much the story itself, as the declarations that were made about the One who came . I found eight such comments in the birth-narratives of Jesus.

1. The angel Gabriel announcement to Mary.

And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one!
The Lord *is* with you (Luke 1:28).”

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name Him Jesus.

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;
and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and His kingdom will have no end (Luke 1:32-33).”

(a son to be born, a deliverer [Jesus], God, royalty, king)

2. An angel’s comments to Joseph

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife;
for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:20-21).”
(a miraculous conception, a son, a deliverer [Jesus], a redeemer)

3. The declaration of Cousin Elizabeth

“And how has it *happened* to me,
that the mother of my Lord would come to me (Luke 1:43)?

(a son, her sovereign)

4. The witness of Mary

“My soul exalts the Lord,
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior (Luke 1:46-47).”

“He has given help to Israel His servant,
In remembrance of His mercy,
As He spoke to our fathers,
To Abraham and his descendants forever (Luke 1:54-55).”

(a savior for Mary, a disclosure of divine grace, a fulfillment of the Abrahamic
Covenant)

5. An Angel’s affirmation to shepherd’s

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which will be for all the people;
for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11).”

(Good news, a savior for all mankind, born in Bethlehem, Messiah and sovereign)

6. The declaration of angels

And suddenly there appeared with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased (Luke 2:14).”

(praise for the savior’s birth from heaven)

7. The confession of the Magi

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?
For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him (Matt. 2:2).”

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother;
and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him (Matt. 2:11)."

(born to royalty, worship)

8. The perception of Simeon

"Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,
And the glory of Your people Israel (Luke 2:29-32)."

(hope fulfilled, salvation arrived for Jew and Gentile)

From the eight comments in the birth-narratives, several things become clear. Jesus, the promised One, God in the flesh, came to us and for us to become our redeemer as well as sovereign Lord, royalty, and king. We now join others in waiting for the final fulfillment of all the meaning of His first coming in the second and final one!!!

Son: 4 times

Deliverer/savior, redeemer: 4 times

God/ worshipped: 4 times

Royalty/ king: 3 times

Lord/ sovereign: 2 times

Grace: 1 time

Prophecy fulfilled: 1 time

The Celebration of the Lord's Table

Congregational Song: "What Child is This?" (William Chatterton Dix, ca. 1865)

Preparation

The Service of the Bread

The Service of the Cup

Congregational Song: “O Worship the King” (Robert Grant, 1833)

Words of Testimony

Concluding Prayer