

CHRISTMAS AT CHETS IS ABOUT JOY

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

- ❖ There is JOY because God offered LASTING HOPE to the entire world.

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Luke 2:10-11

- Key Truth: The Bible tells us the world was in DARKNESS, but God "turned on the light".
The people living in darkness have seen a great light...

Isaiah 9:2a

- ❖ There is JOY when you realize that God came PERSONALLY, just for YOU.

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Luke 2:12-14

- Key Truth: The greatest act of LOVE is to know that Jesus left HEAVEN for you.
"I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly."

John 10:10b

- ❖ There is JOY that is eternally PLANTED in your HEART when you RECEIVE Him.
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Luke 2:15-16

➤ Key Truth: Real Joy is when you finally see Jesus, because SEEING is BELIEVING.

- ❖ There is JOY that is available to EVERYONE if we will take time to SHARE HIM.
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Luke 2:17-18;20

➤ Key Truth: Joy is not completely fulfilled unless it is SHARED with others.

- ❖ Closing Challenge: This Christmas, do you have the JOY of JESUS?

For God loved the world this much... HE GAVE... his only Son, and whoever will believe in Him, put's their total trust and faith in Him will receive eternal life.

John 3:16