
Some thoughts to take with you . . . *The Reason for Rejoicing*

God, apart from Christ, is an angry, offended Sovereign. Unless we behold Him in and through Christ, the Mediator, the terrors of His Majesty would overwhelm us. We dare not approach the Father except in Christ because of our sins. We first fasten our eyes upon Christ, then upon the Father. If Christ does not bear our guilt and reconcile us unto God, we perish! Before any man can think to stand before the face of God's justice or be admitted to the secret chamber of God's mercy or partake of the riches of His grace, he must look to the Mediator, Christ Jesus.

Stephen Charnock

Christmas is based on an exchange of gifts, the gift of God to man - His unspeakable gift of His Son, and the gift of man to God - when we present our bodies a living sacrifice.

Vance Havner

Bethlehem and Golgatha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.

J. Sidlow Baxter

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – the hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross.

J. I. Packer

Nothing is more clear than that Christ cannot be explained by any humanistic system. He does not fit into any theory of natural evolution, for in that case the perfect flower of humanity should have appeared at the end of human history and not in the middle of it.

Lorraine Boettner

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

Martin Luther

Love to Jesus is the basis of all true piety, and the intensity of this love will ever be the measure of our zeal for His glory. Let us love Him with all our hearts, and then diligent labor, and consistent living will be sure to follow.

C.H. Spurgeon

Rejoice! the Lord is Come
The Reason for Rejoicing

Luke 2:8-14

Introduction: On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we turn our attention to the angels who play such an important role in the Christmas story. As created beings, they exist to serve God as His messengers. But, they also serve mankind as models of true worship. They rejoiced at the birth of Jesus Christ, but the question is *why?* They were in no need of rescue from sin, so why were they so jubilant? In answering this question we will discover the core of the Christmas message.

A Short Course on Angels

Who are they?

What do they do?

Angels and the Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:11,26; 2:9

Zacharias

Mary

Joseph

The shepherds

Angels and Rejoicing

Luke 2:8-15-20

Why do angels rejoice?

Why did angels rejoice at the birth of Jesus?

Angels and the Message of Christmas

Luke 2:14,15

First, give God all the glory!

Second, entrust your life to God the Son!

Applying God's Truth to Our Lives ...

The reason for rejoicing ...

Rejoice! the Lord is Come
The Reason for Rejoicing

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KIDS NOTES

The Reason for Rejoicing

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

- Angels are:
 - what Christians become when they get to heaven.
 - sissies with wings and harps.
 - created beings who exist to serve God.
 - all of the above.
- The angels rejoiced at the birth of Jesus because:
 - they needed to be saved from their sins.
 - they had never seen a baby before.
 - His birth declared the glory of God, whom they serve.
 - all of the above.
- From the angels we learn that Christmas is first all about:
 - presents.
 - great food and time off from school.
 - our great God whose glory is displayed in sending a Savior.
 - all of the above

For Family Discussion: In what ways do angels serve God? How do they also serve us (see: Hebrews 1:14)?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

ANGELS _____	TOTAL: _____
REJOICE _____	_____
GLORY _____	_____
WRATH _____	_____
PEACE _____	_____
CHRISTMAS _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

ANGELS REJOICING GLORY WRATH PEACE JESUS CHRISTMAS JOY
 GRACE FAITH REBELLION FORGIVENESS BONDAGE GABRIEL SONG
 SOVEREIGN LOVE PROMISE FULFILLMENT GUARANTEE RESCUE
 POWER GOODNESS STRENGTH WISDOM HEAVENS SHEPHERDS

L Z P W B J H E J H U S H H T P R
 N T D R E T G T T O N D T E S E E
 N M T S O A B Q I O Y R G A O A W
 O L U N D M R Z D A R E N V V C O
 S S E N E V I G R O F H E E E E P
 J B O L C M S S J E P P R N R R G
 E B D O E X L S E K B H T S E N M
 S L E G N A K L E U U E S U I P O
 E C A R G O P W I N C H L C G L D
 C H R I S T M A S F D S I L N D S
 E E T N A R A U G Y L O E P I X I
 W R A T H I U C R G J U O R E O W
 G A B R I E L O N E F A F G Y G N
 K O F Y E D L O R L O V E C S V J
 A I Z Z C G S Q B I R M B Y H I N