

Our Awesome Savior Brings Joy

Matthew 1 Our Anticipated Savior Has Arrived

Matthew 2 Our Arrived Savior Can Be Found

1John 1:1-4 Our Awesome Savior Brings Joy

"We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. ² This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy."

Christmas is Foundationally Historical

"We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands."

Jesus is eternal = *arches*- what was from the beginning = predawn of time

Micah 5:2 "But you, O Bethlehem...are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler... whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf."

John 1:1,14 "In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

3 verses: "we, our, us" occur 11 times = many eyewitnesses can testify

4 verbs used like a court deposition, eyewitness testimony of Jesus:

we saw him, we touched him, we heard him, we beheld him,

Christmas is Deeply Personal

"He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us."

Since Jesus has done all this for you and me, then how super immense is God's love for us.

Christmas means that God is not content to be vaguely known from a distance, He wants us to be with Him, to be with us, to know Him personally, to know His love for us and for us to be able to love Him too now and forever.

Christmas brings Wonderful Joy

"We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy."

Fellowship = sharing a common bond of trust, friendship, a communion of mutual acceptance and peace.

Luke 2 "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

"Joy is the serious business of heaven...if you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone." CS Lewis