

CHRISTMAS 2023

Unwrapping Christmas: Wrapped in Amazement!

Luke 2:1-18 (NIV)

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ **An angel of the Lord appeared** to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly **a great company of the heavenly host appeared** with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, **they spread the word** concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ And **ALL WHO HEARD IT WERE AMAZED** at what the shepherds said to them!

The ANGEL SIGHTINGS were amazing beyond COMPREHENSION!

The VIRGIN BIRTH was amazing beyond EXPLANATION!

Luke 1:30-35 (NIV)

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

*³⁴ **"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"***

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

*¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.***

The ANGEL SIGHTINGS were amazing beyond COMPREHENSION!

The VIRGIN BIRTH was amazing beyond EXPLANATION!

The PROPHECIES FULFILLED are amazing beyond CALCULATION!

The CHANGED LIVES are amazing beyond DOUBT!