

Preparing for Christmas

I. Introduction

- A. Luke 2:6-12 (NLT) *“And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. ⁸That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹²And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*
- B. Luke 2:9 (NLT) *Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified.*
- C. Luke 2:10 (NAS) *But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.”*

II. Some Major Teachings of Jesus Concerning Death

- A. All people die.
 - 1. This life is really brief in comparison to the next life!
- B. There will be a universal resurrection.
 - 1. Acts 24:15 (NLT) *I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous.*
- C. There will be a universal judgment.
 - 1. Hebrews 9:27 (NLT) *And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.*
 - 2. What God expects from all of us is perfection!
 - 3. We all need the “bridging” work of Jesus Christ to bridge that gap for us!
 - 4. Acts 4:12 (NAS) *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”*
- D. Jesus is the only way to heaven.
 - 1. John 14:6 (NAS) *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*
 - 2. We’re going to know community with one another in an incredibly rich way in heaven.
 - 3. Our community with God in heaven will be unimpeded!
 - 4. There’s no community in hell at all!

5. "Gnashing of teeth" is an expression of intense regret.
- E. Salvation in Jesus is a free gift.
1. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NAS) *⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 2. John 1:12 (NAS) *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.*
 3. I John 5:13 (NAS) *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

III. Conclusion