

# The Stories Of Christmas

## Part 2: The Manger - The gift of Provision

**Luke 2:8-14** // 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

At this time of year we see the stories of Christmas everywhere.

We see the traditional stories less focused on the birth of Christ, but certainly filled with part of what makes the holiday fun.

We also see many movies that ring in the Christmas Season

But then as believers, we also have the reason we celebrate Christmas!

**Jesus is the reason for the season!**

As we look to the Bible, there are multiple accounts of what took place around the birth of Christ.

After you are saved, there are some important truths that God wants you to know.

Today we will focus on another truth that is found in Luke 2

### **The Story of the Manger**

**Luke 2:1-7** // "1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar

Augustus, that all the world should be taxed...

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of

David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be

delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**Joseph and Mary that night were about to deliver the savior of the world, think about what must've been going through their mind.**

I imagine that Joseph and Mary were frantic and worried about where they would actually deliver this child.

I'm sure questions arose about even the supernatural things that God had spoke to them...

Yet as we read this story we find right in the middle of verse 7 a very simple statement that is jam packed with one of the most important truths that any of us can come do understand about God.

**"She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger"**

One of the most important truths that God wants us to know after we've accepted Christ is that there is always provision available from his hand no matter what the circumstance may look like.

The truth that God will always provide and work things out for our good should be a foundational truth that we embrace as believers.

**The manger speaks to us of the truth that "no matter what we face God will make a way."**

**Faith in this foundational truth was part of Paul's prayer for us in the book of Ephesians.**

**Ephesians 1:15-16, 18 // 15** “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers... 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,”

Paul prayer earnestly that we would understand the riches of the glory of God's inheritance for us.

**Whether you realize it or not, that last phrase in verse 18 speaks to the provision of God for every believer.**

Once you realize that God has called you to a bright future, you will quickly realize that you need provision to pull it off.

Here is where many believers get stuck and struggle.

**They receive a promise from God about their future and then immediately take that promise into their own hands and try to figure out how they can pull it off.**

God wants us to understand that there is a rich and bountiful, glorious inheritance available to us right here, right now to provide and make a way for us to realize the bright and hopeful future that he has promised.

**He wants us to understand that we are not on our own trying to achieve the future that he's promised us.**

**There is provision for us every day of our lives as we put our hope in him for the glorious future he has promised.**

**That provision is found in our inheritance as a believer.**

• We can walk in the same provision that Jesus walked in •

**Romans 8:16-17 //** “16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”

Everything that belonged to Jesus to fulfill his destiny is available to us to realize ours.

- We can walk knowing that all heaven offers is ours •

**Galatians 4:6-7** // “6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

**You are an heir of God**

**All of that provision is available to be called upon right now for you!**

**Hebrews 1:14** // What are the angels, then? They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are the heirs of salvation

- We can know that the power of the Holy Spirit is ours •

**Ephesians 1:15-20** // 15 “Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers...18 that ye may know...19 what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,”

One of the other provisions we have been given as an heir of God is the "power to pull it off"

**Philippians 4:13** // I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**You are not called to accomplish the bright future within your own ability!**

**1 John 4:4** // “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

**You have the greater one living in you.**

**No longer do you need to worry about tomorrow and how the promise of your future will come to pass.**

You see the truth of provision of God when embraced allows us to live a life worry free.

**Matthew 6:31-32** // “31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’... 32 For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

In the story of the manger, we see that God made a way through his great provision.

**Luke 2:6-7** // 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**God provided a manger for Mary and Joseph and He will provide whatever is needed to meet your needs and secure the great destiny he has promised you!**