

Given: Christmas Eve

Big Idea: To fully experience what was given at Christmas we have to fully understand what to expect from Christmas.

Big Question: What should we expect from the very first Christmas?

Main Scripture: Luke 1:67-79

Luke 1:67-75 ⁶⁷ Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy: ⁶⁸ "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. ⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David, ⁷⁰ just as he promised through his holy prophets long ago. ⁷¹ Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us. ⁷² He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering his sacred covenant—⁷³ the covenant he swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham. ⁷⁴ We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.

1. Salvation from sin

Luke 1:76-77 ⁷⁶ And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord. ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

Matthew 1:21 ²¹ And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Luke 2:10b-11 ^{10b} "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!

Luke 1:78-79a ⁷⁸ Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us (Jesus), ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

2. A light to shine

Psalms 23:4 ⁴ Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

3. A path to be shown

Luke 1:79b ^{79b} and to guide us to the path of peace."

Eiréné = To join or tie together into a whole. Wholeness.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.