

Lessons for Christmas Day

December 25

Psalm 2 (*ant. v. 7*) ~ *The coronation of God's Anointed One is a proclamation of His rule in the earth.*
Isaiah 52:7-10 ~ *The Lord has comforted his people.*
Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12) ~ *God's Son from eternity has come into the world!*
John 1:1-14 (15-18) ~ *The Word became flesh.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Glad Tidings of Great Joy!

Jesus, the promised Messiah, is the Son of God who has existed with the Father and the Spirit from eternity, who was born in the flesh – God incarnate – to bring God’s grace into our lives. He brings peace to a humanity at enmity with God, by sacrificing Himself in our place! He rose from the dead to give us hope for life eternal! What a joyful message we have heard! What a joyous message we have to proclaim! Our lives are filled with the love of Christ for all our neighbors – especially those whose lives are emptied of peace, hope, joy, and love.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus! We give thanks to You for the wonderful gift of Your love so true. You came to reclaim us as children of God and free us from powers of sin that would rob us of life. Today is Your birthday, but You give the gift! Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: When we focus our celebration on self and family, God puts opportunities before us to share his good news with those around us who have no peace, no hope, little joy, and less love.

OFFERING PRAYER: O Lord, the gifts that we receive from family and friends remind us of the greatest gift you gave on Christmas Eve. Now bless these tokens from our lives to work eternal ends, providing joy and hope and love to strangers who believe. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: Good news breaks out on this day as God proclaims the coronation of His King in the incarnation of His Son. God's gift of comfort and great joy to humanity, estranged from God by our sin, is proclaimed, not only by angels to shepherds, but also by the Word of God, made flesh. When we find that other messages in our lives drown out the word of restoration and life, God catches us with his promise and continues to dwell with us. The one who is born a King, rules in our hearts.

BONUS: God's Word Fleshed Out
Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalms 91:14-16; John 1:14

God gave His Word to be with us, and God
is not the One to let a promise fall!
As rain will sprout a seed within a clod,
so will the Word of God accomplish all
He promises and sends it out to do.
“I’ll be with you in trouble,” said the Lord.
“Because I love you, I will rescue you.”
In all our troubles, it is very hard
to see how God is with us in the sin
that traps us just like quicksand every day.
We cannot break the grip death holds us in;
but thanks to God, His love has found a way!
God’s promise is a promise we can trust,
So God fleshed out His Word to rescue us!

© Gilbert A. Franke
December 2005