



**How Great our Joy**  
**Luke 2.10-14**

*And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you **good news** of **great joy** that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2.10-11*

**The Point:** God offers the gift of eternal Joy; one must accept and open a gift to enjoy it.

**The Question:** Will you open the gift or leave it sealed?

The Angel’s Announcement

Fear not

Good news

Great Joy

Christ the Anointed God

Angelic Army’s pronouncement of peace and fear

Glory to God

Peace on earth

To the people with whom God is pleased.

How does one “please God? Open the \_\_\_\_\_!

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While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

The first words of this carol of Christmas are about the joy that God offers to humanity. To whom is this message of grace offered. Was the announcement made to King Herod or Governor Pilate? Was it the night wind to the little lamb? No, it was to a group of shepherds on the mid-shift. Working-class people who had to work on the sabbath and other holidays. How great our joy! Glory to God in the highest!

**The angel’s announcement.** It starts with a message of assurance, “fear not!” When an angel appears, it is not like in the Hallmark movies. You know, the willowy blond lady with a reassuring smile to take away your troubles. In Scripture, an angel often meant big trouble: ask Egypt, Assyria, and Jerusalem. An angel (Hebrew *Malak* or Greek *Angelos*) is a messenger. This time it was a blessing and the offer of peace. Good news is the same word we use for “gospel,” “evangelism.” He brings not just good news but news of great joy!

The word joy is interesting; it has the same root as grace. The word grace means a gift that brings joy. The joy is this, the Messiah is born, and you can go see him. Joy is not happiness, a short-lived exhilaration; joy is the eternal state of one walking with God.

**Angelic Army’s song.** The word host is okay, but the word means army. A crowd will gather to watch a high school football game a multitude goes to watch Ohio State and Notre Dame. Their first words honor their creator. Their second sentence is about peace among men. Peace is not freedom from hate, evil, injustice, and war. Peace is the contentment that we can have in fellowship with God. Why? Because he favor rests on those with whom he is pleased

**How is God pleased?** He is pleased when we accept the gift and open it. Then we have the power to resist sin, obey his word, do his work. The blood of Jesus and the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying work keep us pure.