
The joy of the kings at Jesus' birth:

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

*Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.** And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.*

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Joy

The Wonder of Christmas – part 3

Matthew 2:1-12

What is joy?

*Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**"*

Euphoric joy?

Different kinds of Christian joy

"Insider" Joy:

Luke 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

Finder's Joy:

Luke 15:5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

Pruner's Joy:

*John 15:11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be **complete.***

Everyday Joy:

Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is my strength.

Relational Joy:

■ *John 17:13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.*

Convictional Joy:

■ *Matthew 5:3-10 Blessed are the poor in spirit...those who mourn...meek, etc.*

Building Joy: *Matt. 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came*

■ *down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

Overcomer's Joy:

■ *James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Presence Joy:

Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Sower's Joy:

■ *Psalm 126:3 Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.*

The Bible's Joy:

■ *Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found and I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.*

Both / And Joy:

■ *2 Corinthians 6:10 ...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing and yet possessing everything.*

Persecuted Joy:

■ *Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.*

Sufferer's Joy:

■ *1 Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*
