

## “Christmas Revelry”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Have you ever noticed that even the people who either do not know the true meaning of Christmas, or those who do know but do not care, still often love to give gifts and to party at Christmas time. I’ve heard The Sojourner say that people all over the world, even many who do not acknowledge Christ as the Son of God, recognize Christmas because they either celebrate the holiday or make items for Christmas.

The American Heritage Dictionary defines revelry as: boisterous merrymaking.

WordWeb Online defines revelry as: unrestrained merrymaking.

Irregardless of which definition we choose, they both mean unabashed celebrating.

Please do not misunderstand me, we also need to approach Christmas with a certain reverence because Christ’s birth was such a major part in God’s plan to bring redemption to the world, but reverence and



Notes:

sour-faced stiffness are not necessarily connected. Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Savior of the world. Hmm, let’s see, does this deserve some revelry? Absolutely.

This is a time when many people’s hearts are open to the gospel because they know the Christmas story, or they are so sad about the condition of their life that they are grasping for hope.

Let us this Christmas let the joy of our Savior flow from our hearts in Christmas revelry so that people will see that we are celebrating the Birth of our Savior in such a boisterous and unrestrained manner that they are compelled to inquire about the source of our joy, thus giving us another reason for revelry as we lead them to Christ.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “Christmas Revelation” (Teaching Sketch)

Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)



Both Matthew and Luke give the story of the birth of the baby Jesus in their Gospels. Mark and John do not give accounts of the Savior’s birth but pick up Jesus later in ministry.

It is interesting to note that while Matthew was a tax collector he makes no mention of the census mentioned by Luke, as the reason for the census being to tax the people. These differences in their approach are just that, different aspects of the same story, not discrepancies. There was divergence without disagreement in the stories.

### Matthew’s Unwrapping The Gift

Matthew simply unwraps some different packages of the story of our Savior’s birth than Luke.

### Angels Guiding

Matthew tells of angels guiding the human participants in God’s plan to bring into the world the Savior of mankind. You see, without Divine guidance, mankind (Joseph)

was considering not cooperating with the great redemption plan.

### Luke’s Unwrapping The Gift

Luke gives a secular history background, or at least it may seem to be that way. Remember God is able to use

20But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph [increase] son of David [well beloved], do not be afraid to take Mary [rebellion] home as your wife, because what is conceived in her [rebellion] is from the Holy Spirit.

the just and unjust alike to work out his plans. Thus, while what we get from Luke may be a part of secular history, it is in fact a series of events being employed by God to bring about the unfolding of God’s own plan for the redemption of mankind. God is in these events bringing about the Christmas Revelation of salvation.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

## Scripture:

### Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

1In those days Caesar [hairy or elephant] Augustus [venerable] issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius [of the wall] was governor of Syria [Aram—high].) 3And everyone went to his own town to register.

4So Joseph<sup>[a]</sup> also went up from the town of Nazareth<sup>[b]</sup> in Galilee<sup>[c]</sup> to Judea<sup>[d]</sup>, to Bethlehem<sup>[e]</sup> the town of David<sup>[f]</sup>, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary<sup>[g]</sup>, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the peo-

#### Notes:

[a] Joseph = increase

[b] Nazareth = separated

[c] Galilee = circle

[d] Judea = Place of praise, Judah meaning "Praise"

[e] Bethlehem = house of bread

[f] David = well beloved

[g] Mary = rebellion

ple. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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### Revelation In Names

Revelation [veil drawn back] occurs when we look beyond the time-bound events to the spiritual, eternal, or without time, meanings of names mentioned in the recorded Christmas stories in scripture. It is then that an amazing truth is revealed.

### The Revelation

Man, in the spiritual sense—true reality, was separated by a wall of rebellion from God. The wall [Quirinius] was so high [Syria] no one could scale it. God, therefore, used mankind in the person of increase [Joseph] to be able to let grace abound. He brought increase out of a separated [Nazareth] place into God's circle [Galilee] of salvation [Jesus] to a place of praise [Judea]. This brought man to a place called the House of Bread [Bethlehem], the Body of Christ. The town or city of the well beloved [David] because increase [Joseph] belonged to the line of well beloved [David]. He went to register with rebellion [Mary]. The time came and the Savior [Jesus] was born—so it was done so it was written!



## Advent

This is the third week in Advent. This is the week (re-light 1st two candles) we light the:

## Bethlehem Candle

### Saying:

"I light the Bethlehem Candle which reminds us Mary and Joseph went to the City of David to be taxed and fulfill the prophecy of old that the Savior was to be born in Bethlehem."

### Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

### Song:

"O' Little Town of Bethlehem"