

The Candle of Joy

Introduction: Within Jesus' fragile undiminished deity and true humanity existed together as God's gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

I) A familiar setting.

- A) Politically and geographically vv. 1-3.
- B) Personally and individually vv. 4-5.

II) A miraculous birth.

- A) Modest details vv. 6-7.
- B) Ken Gire paints the scene.

III) A series of responses.

- A) From the angels vv. 8-12. "good news of great joy."
- B) Author Wagner tells us what happened.
- C) From the shepherds vv. 15b-18.
- D) From Mary v.19.
- E) From....You.

Conclusion: As you gaze at the child through the windows of scripture, who do you say He is? That is a question every person must answer. And really we have only three options. First, we would decide He was not the Mighty God, Counselor, Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. In other words, He was a liar, He deliberately deceived His followers. Second, although He was not who he claimed to be, He thought He was God. He lived in a fantasy world, and, tragically, His followers were swept up in a delusion. He was a liar. And thirdly, we could believe that He was who He claimed to be; the Son of God who came to forgive sin and bring us peace and joy, now and for everlasting. He proved by His miracles, death and resurrection He is Lord. If you subscribe to either of the first two choices, Jesus wasn't a gift at all but a curse. If the third option is true, Jesus is a gift of great joy.