

Recapturing Christ

December 24, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus 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 was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

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

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

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

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When 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.”

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

Luke 2:1-20, NIV

Recapture the _____ of being under God’s _____...

- In our _____.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Matthew 28:18, NIV

- In our _____.

¹⁰ So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10, NIV

Recapture the _____ of being surrounded by God’s _____.

¹¹ Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

Exodus 15:11, NIV

Recapture the _____ of knowing that a _____ has been born to us.

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3:17, NIV**

This Christmas peace, awe and joy is meant to be...

- _____ in our hearts, and

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **Luke 2:19, NIV**

- _____ in our lives.

²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. **Luke 2:20, NIV**

MEMORY VERSE

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **Luke 2:11, NIV**

My next step: I will return on January 1 for the start of a life-changing CrossWalk message series: Jesus, Son of God.

What’s your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.