

## GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

Bryan Matthew Dockens, 2020

To Nazareth goes Gabriel.  
For Mary he has news to tell:  
"Rejoice, highly favored one!"  
In your womb, you'll bear God's Son.  
*"How can this be?"* asks the virgin.  
By Highest Power emergent!

By Augustus Caesar's decree,  
Joseph takes Mary from Galilee,  
To his city of ancestry,  
For the counting in registry.  
There is no room due to the crowd.  
Can't give birth inside; she must go out.

Tending to their flocks by night,  
Shepherds behold an awesome sight.  
Angels tell of the Savior's birth  
With the message: "Peace on earth,"  
*"Good tidings," "Goodwill,"* and *"Great joy!"*  
"You will find" this newborn Boy.

Determined to make good haste,  
Toward David's City they faced.  
Enter now pastoral strangers.  
See Him lying in a manger:  
For Christ the Lord, a humble bed,  
Swaddled just as the angels said.

On the eighth day, He's circumcised;  
Nothing less than the Law prescribed.  
On day forty, to the temple.  
Mary's means are rather simple.  
She redeems with two turtledoves,  
Her Firstborn Son sent from above.

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There, Simeon scoops up Jesus,  
Prophesying words that please us,  
One man's final Consolation:  
*"My eyes have seen Your salvation,"*  
Light for Gentiles' revelation!  
Ages past in preparation.

The Boy still in the old man's arm,  
More words portend the mother's harm.  
Heartbreak scribed on destiny's scroll:  
*"A sword will pierce through your own soul."*  
Some will rise, and others will fall.  
Christ has come to fulfill it all.

*"And coming in that instant,"*  
One more to exalt the Infant:  
Anna, the widowed prophetess.  
To all who'll hear, she will profess:  
*"Redemption in Jerusalem!"*  
She gives God thanks and speaks of Him!

Following a wondrous star,  
The magi travel from afar.  
They look for the King of the Jews.  
Herod is troubled by that news.  
He flies into a fit of rage,  
Killing boys under two years' age.

The star of the east reappears,  
So westbound pilgrims journey near.  
Coming into Bethlehem,  
Falling down, they worship Him.  
Upon the Child they confer:  
Gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Joseph takes warning in a dream,  
An angel tells of Herod's scheme.  
With Mary and the Child, take flight,  
Depart in darkness of the night,  
Remain abroad 'til Herod's gone.  
*"Out of Egypt I called My Son."*

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"Christians believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Atheists believe in the virgin birth of the cosmos. Choose your miracle."

– Glen Scrivener

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**DESTROYING YOUR PEACE**

Chadwick Brewer, adapted

I have seen many Christians make statements or share quotes to the effect of "Don't spend your time or waste your life around those who destroy your peace." Let us consider this in light of God's eternal word.

Peace is a product of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), not the result of external actions by others. If others are destroying your peace, you are cultivating the wrong peace.

Jesus, Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas, etc., all viewed others and the advancement of the gospel as more valuable than temporary "peace." They often placed themselves around people who would "destroy their peace" (in modern terms) for a higher cause.

We are all called to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). To make peace, we must often put ourselves into unpleasant situations to achieve something greater. To be peacemakers, we must value others as more important than "our peace" (in modern terms).

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend" (Proverbs 27:6). Sometimes we must "destroy others' peace" (in modern terms) for their personal growth. This is the work of a faithful friend.

This modern notion is self-centered and self-indulgent. It is not spiritual, nor is it in concert with the true and living word of God. This is not the mentality that we should be holding, nor is it one that we should be espousing.

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