

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2

Tonight let's review some of what the Bible tells us about those first Christmas greetings and be inspired by how they were received.

I. ZACHARIAS AND ELIZABETH - Luke 1:5-20, 59-79

A. THE RECIPIENTS (5-10)

1. A devout priest and his wife (5-6)
2. An elderly childless couple (7)
3. A priest with a once-in-a-lifetime privilege (8-9)

B. THEIR MESSAGE (11-17)

1. Your prayer is heard! (11-13a)
2. You are going to have a baby! (13b-14)
3. Your child will be the forerunner of Christ (15-17)

C. THEIR RESPONSE (18-20, 59-79)

1. Doubt (18-20)
2. Obedience (59-63)
3. Praise (64)
4. Prophecy (67-79)

II. MARY - Luke 1:26-55

A. THE RECIPIENT (26-27)

1. A young virgin
2. An engaged women
3. A Jewish women

B. THE MESSAGE (28-37)

1. You are favored (28-30)
2. You will bear the Son of God (31-35)
3. Your relative, Elizabeth, is likewise expecting (36-37)

C. THE RESPONSE (38-55)

1. Submission (38)
2. Confirmation (39-45)
3. Exaltation (46-55)

Over please >

III. **JOSEPH** - Matthew 1:18-25

A. THE RECIPIENT (18-20a)

1. Engaged to Mary (18a)
2. Confused about Mary's pregnancy (18b)
3. Righteous (19a)
4. Thoughtful (19b)
5. Careful (20a)

B. THE MESSAGE (20b-23)

1. Regarding the wedding (20b)
2. Regarding the child (20c-23)
 - a. His origin (20c) > Of the Holy Spirit
 - b. His nature (21) > A Savior
 - c. His prediction (22-23) > Immanuel prophesied by Isaiah (Is. 7:14)

C. THE RESPONSE (24-25)

1. Commitment (24)
2. Discretion (25a)
3. Compliance (25b)

IV. **WISEMEN** - Matthew 2:1-2

A. THE RECIPIENTS (1)

1. Magi: Scientists and sorcerers
2. From the east: Priestly politicians from Medo-Persia

B. THEIR MESSAGE (2a)

1. The King of the Jews was born
2. His star appeared

C. THEIR RESPONSE (2b, 11b)

1. They came to worship Him
2. They brought treasures (11b)

IV. **SHEPHERDS** - Luke 2:8-20

A. THE RECIPIENTS (8)

1. Their occupation: Shepherds working the night shift
2. Their reputation: Unclean, unreliable and unwelcomed

B. THEIR MESSAGE (9-12)

1. Good news for all (9-10)
2. A Savior has been born for you (11)
3. Visiting hours are open! (12) > Here's how you can find Him

C. THEIR RESPONSE (15-20)

1. Correct (15a) > They rightly identify Bethlehem as the City of David
2. Confident (15b) > Going to see what had happened not if it happened
3. Quick (16) > Leaving right away without hesitation
4. Clear (17) > Telling what was said about the child
5. Consumed (20) > Returning to work but glorifying God

CONCLUSION:**How did people respond to the very first Christmas greeting?**

1. Zacharias and Elizabeth believed
2. Mary served
3. Joseph obeyed
4. The Wisemen worshipped
5. The shepherds celebrated

How do we respond the true message of Christmas?

- Might we be more faithful, thoughtful, and worshipful