

Prayer Update 1051

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Next week's Prayer Update will be the last until about 19 January

God's Word for this week ... Luke 2:8-14

In Bethlehem there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, Who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "**Glory to God in the highest Heaven**, and on earth peace among those whom He favours!"

Remembering Jesus' first coming to earth

At this time of the year especially, it is customary to remember the first coming to earth of Jesus the Messiah (the Anointed One) – born as a baby, but the Son of God. Anointed with the Holy Spirit, and proclaimed by His Father, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!"

Why did Jesus come to earth as a Man?

Six major reasons (in chronological order) are as follows.

- **BIRTH:** He came to identify with us as human beings, and to live amongst us – to show us God's love and reveal God to us.
- **LIFE:** To show us how we should live, here on earth.
- **DEATH:** To give His perfect life for us, to pay the penalty for sin and cleanse us from sin.
- **RESURRECTION:** To show us that there is life after death.
- **ASCENSION:** To show us we will one day be resurrected, and like Jesus, we also will ascend to Heaven.
- **RETURN:** To tell us about His second coming, and how we need to be prepared.

Most people do not know these things; or if they do, many don't believe; or don't appreciate them enough to follow Jesus – why He came, and why He is coming again!

Pray for those people who don't know, don't believe, or don't follow God's ways. These may be: a spouse, children, parents, neighbours, other friends, perhaps even someone in your church – pray for the sharing of the Gospel with them, for faith and their salvation.

Pray for God to move in powerful ways over our country, revealing His love and salvation, convicting of sin, and demonstrating His saving grace through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Pray that all churches and Christians will *actively* share the Good News of Jesus' coming and the way to salvation, thus preparing us for His return!

Meditate and pray about what Isaiah 9:6 says (written 700 years before Jesus came):

"For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and **He is named** –

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"

Praise God for all He has done in sending Jesus to this earth, providing the way for salvation through the Prince of Peace, preparing us for His return, and eternal life!