



“The Arrival”  
Luke 2:1-20

**Idea:** The arrival of the long-awaited Messiah King means that sinners can be fit for heaven.

**Intro:** Read Luke 2:1-20.

The arrival of the Messiah King was planned in eternity past, and the first hint of it was given to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. If you know that story of Eden, then you know why they and everyone who came after them needed a Messiah. Adam and Eve were God’s special creation, and they enjoyed intimate fellowship with Him. Eden was wholesome and the perfect place to live and raise a family. Life could not have been better, yet there came a day when they wanted more. The Bible tells us that a serpent in rebellion against God approached Adam and Eve with a question. He cast doubt on God’s character and led them to believe there was a better life to be lived outside of God’s authority. Even though Adam and Eve knew God and His goodness, they believed the lie of the serpent and rebelled against their Creator. Immediately, everything God had warned Adam about happened. Their lives instantly changed. They experienced the shame of their sin and the loss of their relationship with God. The peace they had enjoyed with God, one another, and Creation was gone. Everything was broken. All hope seemed to be lost.

It is here that we catch the first glimpse of this Messiah King. God steps into the broken spaces of Adam and Eve’s lives and speaks of a son of Eve who would come to crush the serpent’s head and destroy evil at its source. As we continue reading through the story of the Bible, we learn that Jesus is this son of Eve who will crush evil and redeem humanity. He will be the blessing to the nations. He will be from the tribe of Judah. And He will be a descendant of King David. God has not abandoned His special creation. He has provided for a Messiah their redemption.

**Inquiry:** Luke records for us in this passage how this Messiah King arrived. He was born to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, a village just outside of Jerusalem. He arrived without the rightful pomp of a prince, but instead was born as a pauper. His arrival was humble yet also glorious. A group of shepherds outside the city were visited by a heavenly host of angels declaring and celebrating Jesus’ arrival.

As we celebrate this arrival on this Christmas Eve, there are three things I want to point out.

### 1. The Gift of Jesus

The angel brought good news to the shepherds (vs. 10). This news was also for everyone. This good news was about the gift that God had given to man in Jesus. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger.

One of the great traditions we enjoy on Christmas is the giving and exchanging of gifts. Many will unwrap gifts this evening. It is a wonderful time! We love to give good gifts, and we love to receive them too. Unfortunately, there is a reality we sometimes forget. The gifts we give and receive never last or satisfy. Thankfully, there is a gift that does both. The gift of Jesus is...

- **Superior**  
Jesus as God the Son is the only One who can satisfy the deep longings of our hearts. He can do this because we were created for Him (Col 1:16). Nothing else in this world truly satisfies us, but Jesus does. As God's gift to us, He satisfies our hearts.
- **Everlasting**  
God's gift never breaks or runs out because Jesus is eternal. His love and affection never cease.
- **Universal**  
God's gift is for all the people. Jesus arrived in this world as a gift for those of every tribe, tongue, and nation.

We celebrate the gift of Jesus.

## 2. The Identity of Jesus

The angel describes the identity of this gift in verse 11. He is...

- **Savior**  
God the Son will save His people from their sins. He will rescue them from the domain of darkness and transfer them to the kingdom of light (Col 1:13).
- **Messiah**  
God the Son is the anointed one promised and sent by the Father.
- **Lord**  
God the Son is master and ruler over man. We have all been made by Him and for Him. Jesus arrived not just as another ordinary human being. No, He arrived as the sovereign Lord of heaven. As such the sacrifice He would offer would satisfy the just wrath of God the Father against sin.

## 3. The Recipients of Jesus

Verse 8 tells us that the angel and the heavenly host appeared to shepherds. They brought good news to the lowest class of people in Israel. Shepherds were despised and regarded as thieves. They were outcasts.

The shepherds on the hillside that night knew they were outcasts. They knew they were out of fellowship. They recognized what separated them. We learn from this encounter that God comes to those who sense their need. He does not come to the self-sufficient. The good news is for those who know they need Jesus.

**Conclusion:** On this Christmas Eve, we celebrate the arrival of God's to us. We rejoice that He is our Savior, Messiah, and Lord. If you have not unwrapped His gift of salvation, I want you to know that it is by far the best gift you will ever be given. Jesus invites you to confess your sin and place your faith in Him for salvation.

Jesus is the Gift of God who has come down from heaven. Let's stand and sing about this child.