

# THE Christmas STORY

Bridge City  
CHURCH

12/15/2024

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

### PART I: AN UNWAVERING HOPE

**Luke 2:1-7 (NLT).** *At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.*

**Advent:** The season of expectant waiting.

**C.S. Lewis:** *"If we find ourselves with desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."*

The Christmas story reminds us that there is a greater hope that God desires for us to experience and that hope is personified in the person of our Lord Jesus!

**REMEMBER:** Hope has a name, and His name is Jesus.

**Matthew 12:21 (NLT).** *And his name will be the hope of all the world.»*

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY FILLS ME WITH HOPE:

### 1. HIS [PRESENCE] IS WITH ME.

**Matthew 1:23 (NLT).** *"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"*

**Ephesians 2:11-13 (NLT).** Don't forget ... in those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

## 2. MY [ADOPTION] WAS SEALED.

**John 1:12 (NLT).** But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

**Romans 8:15-16 (NIV).** The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

## 3. MY [SALVATION] IS SECURE.

**John 10:28-29 (NIV).** I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[a]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

It is God's past faithfulness that motivates us to have hope for a better future.

**Hebrews 10:23 (NLT).** Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.



**KINGDOM BUILDERS**



THE  
*Christmas*  
STORY



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