

**All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 1993 -- 2006 Holiness Data Ministry**

**Duplication of this disc (CD or DVD) by any means is forbidden,  
and copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this disc.**

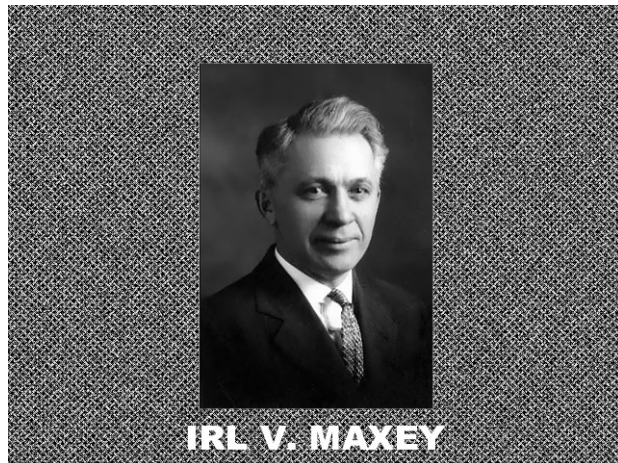
**CHRISTMAS SERMON #1  
By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited  
By Duane V. Maxey**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Digital Edition 02/10/06  
By Holiness Data Ministry**

\* \* \* \* \*



## **INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE**

**Papa notes that this Christmas Sermon was written in Ashton, Idaho. My brother Parker notes in his sketch of our father's life: "My earliest recollection was while Father was pastoring in Ashton, Idaho near Yellowstone National Park where we had moved in 1916." If Parker's statement is true -- that the family "had moved in 1916" to Ashton, then this Christmas message could not have been written before some time in 1916. However, the sermon appears in the same notebook with a second Christmas Sermon nearer the end of the notebook that is dated December 18, 1915. And, in this second Christmas Sermon, papa says: "As I told you this morning, I will use the same text tonight." -- which text is Luke 2:11 -- identical to the text of this sermon. Perhaps I am mistaken, but I think perhaps the family actually moved to Ashton near the end of 1915, and this sermon was written and**

preached on the morning of December 18, 1915, and was followed in the evening by the second Christmas Sermon. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona, February 10, 2006.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our text will be found in the message of the angels to the shepherds announcing the birth of Christ, as recorded in Luke 2nd chapter and eleventh verse.

#### **SERMON TEXT:**

Luke 2:11 -- "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

\* \* \*

I see a mighty congregation of earth. I hear them say a Savior is born! We have truly expected this announcement. I look upon the congregation which is the world, and I say among you all there has been a growing expectation that Christ should be born and found to appear on earth.

Greece rose to a great height and produced Socrates and Plato, but there was an awful limitation to their insight, and they seem to cry out, "Oh for a teacher to unlock the hidden mysteries to us!" As they dealt blow after blow at the citadel of ignorance, like the miners who pick at the hard rock to get gold, they hoped, they expected to find the truth.

Away to the northeast comes the path of a ray of light which is shed from that star which is drawing nearer to earth. Away yonder among the backward people of the yellow race, "Our hearts must be satisfied," they cry. But following the path of the ray of light they journey out of their country toward Jerusalem. "Oh, His coming!" they cry.

Day after day they travel. Night after night they camp. They search, they ask. Finally, they meet the great teacher Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhism. They never get farther.

Oh, that we could send them an angel to whisper in their ears and beat upon their consciousness: "CHRIST IS BORN! CHRIST IS BORN! CHRIST IS WHAT YOU EXPECTED!" But they go back with their inquiry met in Buddha. Oh foiled hearts! Confucius could have told you better, or even Lao-tse.\*

[\*Lao-tse -- sixth century B.C.. Chinese philosopher who is traditionally regarded as the founder of Taoism.]

Rome had waged war, nations had been subdued, and now from all around there seems to come a voice saying, "Peace, be still, oh earth." Wonders are seen in the heavens. The whole world of astronomy is upset. Oh earth, be quiet as a lamb, the Great Shepherd is coming. Oh earth, thy Creator is coming. Wars cease, and they wait.

Oh Israel, Dost thou wait? Dost thou expect? One mighty struggle after another. Nation after nation has wasted her borders. Judas Maccabeus had done his best. Galilee seems no more so sweet. Jerusalem, that once shone as a morning flower and glittered as the morning dew, has faded in splendor. The Hope of the nations is gone. Ah, No! In many a devout breast there breathed exultant hope and glowing expectancy of His coming.

In every real Jewish home they kept the Passover. At this feast everything was gotten in the very best order. The house was thoroughly cleaned and the floor scrubbed. Another floor was laid upon this. This was carefully cleaned, and then the table was put on this. Here they ate the Passover, typical of Christ's being slain. While they ate someone of the family passed out of the door which had been sprinkled with blood on the sides and lintel, and they looked each way to see if they could see Him, for some really expected to see Him come while they ate the Passover feast.

Somewhere out on the desert of life they expect to find an oasis -- where song birds of God's love warble their sweetest songs -- where the air is pure ethereal and laden with the breath of flowers -- where sin ceases its relentless search -- and where the weary heart rests mid the sweet babble of the stream of God's salvation.

Oh for a stretched out arm and a guiding hand! This expectancy of nations has its hidden source in the human heart. So where the story was never told of this wonderful Messiah who was to come the heart reaches to find Him. The heart of the heathen reaches out to find Him, and strains the ear toward heaven to listen, if happily they might catch the sound of the Heavenly voice announcing His coming. Oh, surely God could not, and did not, fail to satisfy this expectation. Christ is born.

Christ was manifested to us in the flesh. Herein is a great mystery, and I know it baffles our brains though it reaches our hearts. Paul said, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Timothy 3:16).

Oh! would you think of it?! God, Who created the world, is now come in a human body. Everything must flee before Him. No wonder John the Baptist said His "fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor" (Matthew 3:12; Luke 3:17). He was to be just in spirit, holy before angels, preached unto an ungodly world,

**believed by the few, to give up his fleshly body on the cross, rise from the dead, and go back to Heaven -- Son of God, Word of God!**

**No wonder Paul said it is a mystery. Isaiah described Him: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).**

**The shepherds caught the idea: -- Peace upon earth and good will to men.**

**Now you have the idea of His manifestation -- God in the flesh -- the mighty God and everlasting Father giving council to men -- the Prince of Peace who should heal men's hearts, till good will should be manifested toward each other. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11) -- a very personal Christ.**

**A young man left Detroit, Michigan to make a voyage on the Atlantic. His vessel was wrecked on the rocks near the coasts of Newfoundland. The vessel lost most of its cargo and a great many lives also. The news that he had perished in the cold, icy waters was flashed to Detroit to this man's wife and mother. Their hearts were torn and they wept bitterly. But the son and husband was not lost.**

**He learned that the mistaken news of his death had reached home. He went to the telegraph office and sent this message: "Saved" and signed his name. Yonder came a messenger boy. Their hearts sank, and hoped. Quickly the wife grabbed the message, tore it open, and read: "Saved" -- "Thank God! He's saved, SAVED!" Oh, how the tears of joy ran down the faces of the wife and mother! Oh, what a precious message: "SAVED!" They kept that message. They framed it. It hangs upon the wall -- just that one word, "SAVED".**

**Oh brother, you are traveling the sea of life. You have run onto the rocks of sin, and the message has gone to Heaven: "LOST!" It rests upon the hear of your wife and mother. Jesus reaches a strong hand across the expanse of life to pull you out by the life-boat of salvation. Shall not the message reach Heaven today: "SAVED!"?**

**Jesus is come a Savior. Isaiah said, "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people" (Isaiah 55:4). Joshua stood before Jericho and Jesus appeared to him and said, "As Captain of the host of the Lord am I now come" (Joshua 5:14).**

**Oh, Glory to God! He is Leader. Who led the Reformation? -- Christ! Who snatched the church from formalism in the 18th Century? -- Christ! Who leads the fight to free wage slaves and white slaves? -- Christ!**

**Up the way of light against every foe of darkness, midst fire of persecution, defamation, and death, He leads His people on! "Unto you is born.. a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). He has saved a ruined world and conquered death! Oh, Christ is all in all! Yes, Christ is all.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**THE END OF THIS SERMON**