

THE CAST OF *Christmas*



THE
PROPHETS



THE
ANGELS



THE
SHEPHERDS



THE
MAGI
AND
US



THE CAST
OF
Christmas

The Shepherds:
“Hope and Joy”

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15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2:15-16, (NKJV)

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17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

Luke 2:17-18, (NKJV)

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“These things I have spoken to you, that
My joy may remain in you, and that your joy
may be full.”

John 15:11, (NKJV)

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God wants our lives to be constantly
overflowing and filled with joy.

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He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said,
out of his belly (heart) will flow rivers of living water.“

John 7:38, (NKJV)

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One important part of walking in hope and joy is simply to choose to rejoice in everything! Much of the hope, joy, and rejoicing in the Bible isn't really connected with circumstances.

It's connected with a decision. In fact, one of the keys to a life of joy is to rejoice even when the circumstances are disappointing or even painful.

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17 Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive
crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no
sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

Habakkuk 3:17-18, (NIV)

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Joy flows out of rejoicing every bit as much
as rejoicing should flow out of joy.

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Just as rejoicing restores your joy,
complaining steals it.

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20 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.

21 Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea."

Exodus 15:20-21, (NLT)

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22 Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the desert of Shur. They traveled in this desert for three days without finding any water.

23 When they came to the oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means "bitter").

Exodus 15:22-23, (NLT)

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24 Then the people complained and turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?" they demanded.

25 So Moses cried out to the Lord for help, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink.

Exodus 15:24-25, (NLT)

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12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation

and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will turn back to you.

Psalms 51:12-13, (NIV)