

The first chapter of the Gospel according to John is not your typical birth announcement. There is no mention of his earthly lineage. One waits until verse 14 to discover that the child born is a boy. Yet, while totally human, he is also the incarnate Word of God.

Jesus, the Word of God present with God from the beginning, “became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

The Gospel according to John makes it abundantly clear that the emphasis lies in Jesus being the Word of God. Yet the Word of God was spoken long before He took on flesh and blood.

The letter of Hebrews starts by saying, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets...” They bore the message that the Son of God is coming to bring forth righteousness. They conveyed the hope that we have through the one whose birth we celebrate. In other words, the prophets are among those with beautiful feet.

That's right. From the 52nd chapter of Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news of happiness, who publishes peace, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

There are the beautiful feet of the angels who sing glory, glory to the new born king, bearing witness to the Shepherds that the Savior is born. They went to the stable, discovering the truth of the Word that was heard and then being held in the arms of Mary. They left amazed. They left rejoicing. They left glorifying and praising God. They left with beautiful feet.

Yet, they are not the only ones. Wise Men from the East begin their long trip to pay homage to not simply a fellow King, but to the King of Kings. They too, go forth with beautiful feet.

Again, the Wise men are not the only ones. The scriptures reveal a host of people who go forth bearing witness to the one who has come to save us.

There was a man infected by demons. They controlled his life, much like the demons of drugs, pornography, gambling, alcohol, and other addictions control lives of

many in today's world. In his encounter with Christ, the demons are driven out. The one bound has been set free. And with his new found freedom comes abundant joy. Jesus sends him forth to tell others what the Lord has done. He goes forth with beautiful feet.

From the Gospel of Matthew we learn of men born blind. They appeal to Jesus, the one prophesied as being able to restore sight to the blind. Jesus restored their sight with the touch of his hands. With renewed sight, they also go forth with beautiful feet, bearing witness to what Christ has done.

All of this foreshadowed the great work of our salvation that Jesus had come to accomplish. The hour comes. Betrayal, abandonment of his scared disciples, conviction based on false accusations, mocked, beaten, nailed to a tree with a crown of thorns on his head all depict how we have treated the Word made flesh. It was God's desire that we be saved from our sins that led Christ to this path.

For our salvation Jesus endured the cross. He experienced death. His body was lifeless. The burial was complete. The tomb sealed.

Just as Angels had declared the birth of the Word made flesh, the angels declared to women that death has lost. Christ the living Word of God could not be defeated. Go, tell his disciples, Christ is risen.

Go with beautiful feet bearing the good news that salvation is won. For the disciples, for over 500 eye witnesses, and for Saul, behold the risen Lord. Hear the call of the Lord to go forth and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

For you, for me, behold the Christ the newborn king; behold Christ crucified and risen. Behold the salvation of the World. And following that great cloud of witnesses from ages past, use your beautiful feet.

Use them to carry you to the grieving assuring them of God's care. Use your beautiful God given feet to bear witness to the glory of God seen in the healing of the sick and injured. Break forth into singing, for the Lord has comforted his people.

Christ is born. Go tell it to people near and far. Let the good news of God flow from your lips. "Our God reigns."
AMEN.