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December 2023 “The Eternal Christmas Truth”

Dear Friend,

Quite some time ago, I read an article which stated that Christmas is the number one holiday when it comes to people putting up decorations. The number two holiday? Halloween! What an amazing contrast: the one is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, who came to give us life; the other is a celebration of death, devils, witches and evil. Even more interesting is the fact that numerous cities have outlawed the use of birth-of-Christ Christmas decorations on government properties, yet it may be possible to see contrasting Halloween decorations in those same government facilities.

The world can say what it wants. Governments can legislate what they want. School systems can rename Christmas Break and call it Winter Break. Businesses can forbid employees from saying “Merry Christmas.” But no one will ever change what God did approximately 2,000 years ago when He sent His Son Jesus into the world to be the Savior of all humanity.

It was about 6,000 years ago when, after Adam and Eve sinned, God prophesied evil’s ultimate defeat at the hands of a child who would be born.

¹⁴And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:14-15)

Around 2,000 years after that, God again declared the coming of Jesus,

¹And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. ²And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. ³And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, ⁴As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. ⁵Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. ⁶And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. ⁷And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. (Genesis 17:1-7)
[Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Galatians 3:16)]

A little over 500 years later, Moses prophesied of the coming Messiah,

The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of

thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken (Deuteronomy 18:15)
[This is confirmed as a prophecy about Jesus in Acts 3:20-22, ²⁰And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. ²²For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.]

Then, after another 500 years, David, the man many consider Israel's greatest king, prophesied repeatedly in the Psalms about the coming Messiah (space does not allow me to document all those prophecies).

⁶Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
(Psalm 2:6-7)

¹The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. ²The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. ³Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. ⁴The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Psalm 110:1-4)

Slightly over 250 years later, God gave one of the most profound prophecies of Jesus' birth through the prophet Isaiah,

¹⁰Moreover the Lord spake again unto Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the Lord. ¹³And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:10-14)

God spoke even more through Isaiah about the Immanuel who was to come.

⁶For 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. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.
(Isaiah 9:6-7)

Approximately 750 years later, the glorious Prince of Peace, the Son of God, arrived on Earth!

²⁶And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, ²⁷To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came in

unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. ²⁹And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. ³⁰And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. ³¹And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³²He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. ³⁴Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? ³⁵And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. ³⁶And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷For with God nothing shall be impossible. ³⁸And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) ⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. ²¹And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:1-21)

⁴But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ⁵To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (Galatians 4:4-5)

All the above are just a sampling of the numerous biblical prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus, His purpose for coming, what He would do while on Earth, and the salvation He offers to all who will believe in Him. Over 4,000 years of prophecies cannot be negated by the foolish, ignorant actions and legislations of spiritually dead, self-centered, man-pleasing media, businesses, and governments.

Likewise, no matter how many voices rise up to denounce the gospel message, what Jesus accomplished on Earth will stand forever. What He can do for those who put their faith in Him will never diminish. No world power can stop the end-time prophecies recorded in scripture from coming to pass right before our eyes. Furthermore, no government will be able to hinder the end-time outpouring of God's Spirit or the revival that will harvest millions of souls into God's Kingdom.

I'm closing this letter with three prophecies which the Lord gave in our church at Christmas time in past years. I trust they will be encouraging and a blessing to your life. Praise God, Christmas – the celebration of the birth of Jesus – is truly a wonderful time of the year!

In His Grace,

Jim

PS: You can order a CD of a special Christmas sermon, *Joy and Rejoicing*, by using the form on the next page.



God Celebrates Our New Birth

This is the season you celebrate My birth. Much is made over My birth. Much is said, and yes, My birth is very important. But I was born into the world with the life of the Father; you were not. Just as you celebrate and rejoice to recognize the day of My birth, I want you to know that where I am there is also rejoicing. But it is not over My birth; it is over the moment that you accepted Me as your Savior and you became born [again].

For you see, I have always existed. But until you became born again, you did not exist with Me. So think about the celebration, think about the joy, think about the parties, think about all the things that you do in this season—all the happiness, all the excitement—and magnify that beyond your imagination, for that is what we feel in Heaven when you come to be born again. You celebrate My birth, but I want you to know, we celebrate yours.

Heaven Celebrates

Just as you gather together to celebrate My birth, and you celebrate it before the world, I would have you know that in Heaven we celebrate your birth. For doesn't My Word say there is rejoicing in the presence of angels when just one person comes to know Me as Lord and Savior?

All the celebrating and singing that you do here, all the parties and times you get together for the purpose of celebrating My birth, I want you to know that you have not seen anything yet.

There is a celebration that goes on in Heaven that far surpasses anything that has ever taken place on Earth in celebration of My birth. For you see, My birth helps make it possible for you to be born. My birth in this world helped make it possible for you to be born into My Kingdom. So you are excited and there is so much joy during those times when you celebrate My birth in this world. But in Heaven there is a celebration the likes of which you have never seen when each of you comes to know Me as Lord and Savior.

So know this, rejoice and enjoy these times of celebration. Enjoy these times when you get together to celebrate My birth. But in your heart look forward with an excitement and anticipation of the day that all of you are going to be gathered together in one place, at one time, to celebrate your life in Me. And that day is coming soon, says the Lord.

His Birth, His Return

It has been many, many years since that day when I was born; it was a night. It was similar to what you think; it was a quiet birth. Yes, the announcement was made to the shepherds by the angels, but it was a quiet birth. The world did not know that I had been born that night. And the world did not receive what I had done; many rejected Me. And so the first time that I came it was quiet, without tremendous fanfare.

But I want you to know the days are short. I am coming back. And the next time I come, it will not be quiet. It will be with a shout that this world will hear. I will return in My glory and in My power, and My Kingdom will be established in this world in the most literal sense that you can imagine. For I am the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords and I shall reign triumphant throughout eternity, says the Lord.

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****If you would like to receive these letters by email, please email me at:
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_____ Please a CD of the Christmas sermon, *Joy and Rejoicing*.

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