

Remember Christmas!

* This Morning:

- I Would Like Us To Spend Some Time Together:
- Remembering The True Story Of Christmas!

* Veiled In Darkness Judah Lay (Douglas L. Rights) (1915)

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,
Waiting for the promised day,
While across the shadowy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light,
Heav'nly voices chanting then,
"Peace on earth, good will to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies.
Up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief,
Prayers of men who seek relief:
Now our darkness pierce again,
"Peace on earth, good will to men."

Light of light, we humbly pray,
Shine upon Thy world today;
Break the gloom of our dark night,
Fill our souls with love and light,
Send Thy blessed Word again,
"Peace on earth, good will to men."

* A Harmony Of Christmas:

~ At This Time, I Would Like Us To Remember The Complete Christmas Story Through A Chronological Presentation of The Birth of Christ! You Can Follow Along With The Passages Listed On Your Message Guide!

* The Promise Of Christ (Isaiah 9:2; Galatians 4:4-5)

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined!" (Isaiah 9:2)

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

" The Preparation For Christ - Through The Coming Of John The Baptist (Luke 1:5-25; John 1:6-14)

"There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell on him. But the angel said to him, Fear not, Zacharias: for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elisabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you shall have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said to the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said to him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and

am sent to speak to you, and to show you these glad tidings. And, behold, you shall be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because you believe not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he tarried so long in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned to them, and remained speechless. And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus has the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.” (Luke 1:5-25)

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:6-14)

* The Annunciation Of Christ - To Mary & To Joseph (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25)

“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel came in to her, and said, Hail, you that are highly favored, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said to her, Fear not, Mary: for you have found favor with God. And, behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give to him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary to the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Ghost shall come on you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, your cousin Elisabeth, she has also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:26-38)

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, you son of David, fear not to take to you Mary your wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took to him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS!” (Matthew 1:18-25)

* The Song About Christ - Mary’s Magnificat: Luke 1:26-56

“And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spoke out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And what is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, see, as soon as the voice of your salutation sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. And Mary said, My soul does magnify the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from now on all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty has done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He has showed strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He has filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever. And Mary stayed with her about three months, and returned to her own house.” (Luke 1:26-56)

* The Birth Of Christ (Shepherd’s Visit & Temple Visit): Luke 2:1-38

“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And 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.” (Luke 2:1-7)

* “How Low He Lay!” (John Piper)

In this smelly place he lay,
Smelly like the swine,
Smelly like the rotting hay,
Like your sin, and mine.
Do you see how low he lay?
Do you see how low?
There is lower yet to go.
Lower yet to go.

He is lying where they eat,
Lying where the swine—
Lying like a piece of meat
Where the hungry dine.
Do you see the flow complete
Do you see the flow?
There is greater love to show
Greater love to show.

Such a happy toddler there,
Happy like the birds,
Happy like the morning air
Filled with happy words.
Does he see or know or care?
Does he see or know:
O, how deep will be his woe
Deep will be his woe?

Knowing God was born like this
Knowing this is he,
Knowing somehow this is bliss
For the swine and me,
Is this love's full glow and kiss?
Is this love's full glow?
There are deeper things to know,
Deeper things to know.

Mary musing every year,
Musing on her son,
Musing with a rising fear
Who will be the one:
Who will strike the blow and spear?
Who will strike the blow?
Does she know that blood must flow?
Know that blood must flow?

Jesus hanging on the tree,
Hanging like the meat,
Hanging there for swine like me,

Gives his flesh to eat.
Here is Life brought low and free.
Here is Life brought low.
O, how vast the debt I owe
Vast the debt I owe.

* Visit Of The Shepherds:

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, see, the angel of the Lord came on them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And 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 to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told to them.” (Luke 2:8-20)

* Visit To The Temple:

“And 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. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” (Luke 2:21-24)

“And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was on him. And it was revealed to him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let you your servant depart in peace, according to your word: For my eyes have seen your salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yes, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise to the Lord, and spoke of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” (Luke 2:25-38)

* The Worship Of Christ (Wise Men’s Visit) (Matthew 2:1-23; Luke 2:39-40)

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And you Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, are not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.” (Matthew 2:1-8)

“When they had heard the king, they departed; and, see, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when

they had opened their treasures, they presented to him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.” (Matthew 2:9-12)

* Flight Into Egypt / Herod Slays The Babies Of Bethlehem:

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be you there until I bring you word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. 14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.” (Matthew 2:13-15)

“Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.” (Matthew 2:16-18)

* Death Of Herod / Return From Egypt To Nazareth:

“But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appears in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child’s life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelled in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 2:19-23)

“And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was on him!” (Luke 2:39-40)

* Now - As We Just Read:

- The Coming Of Christ Did Not Take Everyone By Surprise!

- No - There Were Some:

- Who Remembered That So Much Of What Took Place When Jesus Was Born:

- Had Been Prophesied & Predicted Hundreds Of Years & Even Thousands Of Years Before!

- There Were Some:

- Like Simeon & Anna:

- Who Were Looking For “Redemption In Jerusalem!” (Luke 2:38)

* And They Based Their Hope:

- On Scripture! Scripture Like:

- Isaiah 9:6 - “For 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!”

- This Was The Timeless Purpose Of Christmas!

- “For Unto Us A Child Is Born, Unto Us A Son Is Given!”

- But What Makes The Story Of This Birth & The Coming Of This Child So Special?

- What Is So Unique About A Child Being Born?

- What Is So Unique About A Son Being Given?

* The Answer To These Questions:

- Is Given In This Verse!

- It Is The Character Of This Child:

- That Makes Him & His Birth So Unique & Special!

- He Is:

- The Wonderful Counsellor!

- He Is:

- The Mighty God!

- He Is:

- The Everlasting Father!
- He Is:
 - The Prince Of Peace!
- * And In The Time We Have Left:
 - I Would Like Us To See What Makes This Child:
 - So Special & So Important To Us Today!

1. *As The Wonderful Counselor:*

- This Child & This Son – Is The Wisdom Of God:
 - Come Down From Heaven:
 - In Order To Offer Hope For Mankind!
 - For You & Me!
- Jesus Is The Wonderful Counselor & The Wisdom Of God!
 - 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 - “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; / But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God!”
 - If You Need Counsel:
 - If You Need Wisdom:
 - Then Listen To The Timeless Message Of Jesus Christ!
- For In His Great & Divine Wisdom:
 - He Knew What You & I Needed Most:
 - Salvation From Our Sins!

2. *As The Mighty God:*

- This Child & This Son – Is The Power Of God:
 - Come Down From Heaven:
 - In Order To Rescue Us & Redeem Us:
 - From The Bondage & Darkness We Are In!
- Jesus Is The Mighty God & The Power Of God!
 - For Jesus Is God – The Son!
 - As Audrey Mieir Once Wrote:
 - “He Is The Mighty King, Master Of Everything, His Name Is Wonderful, Jesus My Lord!”
- In This Description Of Jesus:
 - We Have His Identity Clearly Revealed To Us!
 - And Because Jesus Is The Mighty God:
 - We Must Bow Our Hearts And Lives To Him In Submissive & Humble Worship!

3. *As The Everlasting Father:*

- This Child & This Son – Is Eternal!
 - He Always Has Been & Always Will Be:
 - Because He Is God!
 - And Though He Is Not The Same Person:
 - As God The Father:
 - Yet - He Shares The Same Character:
 - As A Father - To Those Who Belong To Him!
- So - Jesus Is The “Father Of Eternity” Described Here In Isaiah 9:6!
 - For It Is Jesus Who Is Able To:
 - “Save Them To The Uttermost That Come Unto God By Him!” (Hebrews 7:25)
 - Because - As Alexander MacLaren Once Said - “Dying Men Need & Have An Undying Christ!” - And So:
- Jesus Has The Great Love & Care:
 - Of A Father!
 - Psalm 103:13-14 - “Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.”
- Jesus Has The Great Love & Compassion:
 - Of A Father!
 - Matthew 9:36 - “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them,

because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd!”

- Jesus Came So That:
 - You Can Become A Child Of God:
 - Through Faith In Him!

4. As The Prince Of Peace:

- This Child & This Son:
 - Can Provide The Most Important Peace:
 - You & I Need:
 - And That Is Peace With God!
- Jesus Alone Is The Prince Of Peace!
 - Romans 5:1 - “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - The Peace That You Need:
 - Is The Peace That Only Jesus Christ Can Provide!
 - Because He Is The “Prince Of Peace!”

Conclusion:

1. Knowing & Trusting In & Then, Living For:
 - That Very Special Child:
 - And That Very Unique Son – The Son Of God:
 - Is The Most Important Decision:
 - That You Can Ever Make!
2. Romans 10:9-11 Tells Us - “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. / For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. / For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed!”
3. Won’t You Say & Pray Today:
 - What We Will In A Moment Sing:
 - “O Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus, There Is Room In My Heart For Thee!” (“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne!”)

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