

THE CHRISTMAS SERIES *of* 2023

THE EVIDENCE, THE GLORY, THE PROOF OF JESUS CHRIST
BEING THE SON OF GOD, SAVIOR - THE CHRISTMAS MESSIAH.

MEDIA REFERENCE JH582 SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 2023

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

HIS RETURN – PART 1

THE EVIDENCE, THE GLORY, THE PROOF OF JESUS CHRIST,
BEING THE SON OF GOD, SAVIOR - THE CHRISTMAS MESSIAH

MEDIA BROADCAST SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:
SALVATION, CHRISTMAS, FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, WORSHIP

I am reminded about the little boy who had such anticipation

about getting a new bike for Christmas - that he could hardly contain himself. So he plotted, he planned, he schemed - he thought of everything he could to manipulate mom and dad into considering his request for a brand-new bike. He felt that his request wasn't getting anywhere with mom and dad.

Well mom picked him up from school on the last day before Christmas break but on their way home she had to stop quickly to pick something up from the local store. So, as little Johnny sat there, he suddenly noticed on the dashboard was a statue of the Virgin Mary – then “BAM” he had the answer to his problem - he suddenly made the connection between Mary and Jesus being the Son of God – At that, he reached out and snapped Mary off the dashboard at the ankles, he stuffed her in his lunchbox, looked around and then bowed his head to pray a prayer – “Lord if you ever want to see your mother again, you'll get me that bicycle for Christmas.”

I must confess that the greatest disappointment for me at Christmas time,

at this season is what I look back to in remembrance. When you're young and excited about Christmas, there's this awesome building up of anticipation leading to the big day. I remember being such a nuisance to my parents, that my brother and I would systematically shake a box several times a day and accidentally rip a corner of the wrapping paper to get some sort of glimpse as to what might be inside. I was terrible. I couldn't handle the anticipation. That is probably the most missed feeling I have regarding - The Memories of Christmas Past.

Now that I'm older and understanding how Christmas works,

the anticipation has shifted from what I'm about to unwrap, to – when will the bill arrive?

My unknown expectation of Christmas as a child has been replaced by my known expectation of the coming Christmas bill.

Yet, thanks be to God - Christmas has nothing to do with what you buy or unwrap or ship or receive - **but it is still all about what you get.** And of course, I think you know where I'm going with this, and that is “getting the ultimate gift of Christmas is getting Jesus Christ Himself.

As we consider the true meaning of Christmas, I thought about how

the overall announcement or vision or ministry of Christmas could be told as effectively, as efficiently, or as concise as possible. The answer to that challenge is incredibly simple!

John 1:1-3,14

In the beginning *(at the physical creation)* **was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** *(one In essence and being)* **2 He was in the beginning** *(at the physical creation)* **with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made., 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we *(all those who physically saw Him)* **beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten** *(only honored, glorified, forerunner)* **of the Father, full of grace and truth.****

HIS RETURN

1.) The Promise of His Return

The Christmas message is anything but a story.

I know - all around the world Christmas is billed as “**The Greatest Story Ever Told**” but I really do not like that description of Christmas at all. **According to the Bible, there is nothing about Christmas being a story – Because according to the Bible, everything about Christmas is a fact.**

Christmas is the Message of God’s Missionary Journey
to Come to Us, To Rescue Us, To Redeem Us.

1a.) It’s a Promise deeper than what we had thought.

Genesis 3:15

And I (LORD) will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

It’s no story – but it is a tragedy!

that mankind was once perfect in his created state of life.

It’s no story – but it is a tragedy!

that you having a choice is a God-Embedded-Function of the human Psyche.

It’s no story – but it is a tragedy!

that mankind would decide to ruin his life and generations by his own choices.

It’s no story – but it is a tragedy!

that mankind would go-it-alone to live without God as a runaway.

It’s no story – but it is the ultimate act of mercy!

that mankind would be offered salvation.

**ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE,
GOD PROMISED TO RETURN TO HIS CREATION AS ITS REDEEMER – BY BECOMING ONE OF
US – A CREATED BEING**

Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE PROMISE OF HIS RETURN

1b.) It's a Promise unique beyond all chance.

The meaning of the Christmas message is impossible to miss

Unless You determine to miss it. – ignore it or be willfully ignorant

Unique because God had a plan that would be 100% dependent upon Himself to bring into reality.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

1c.) It's a Promise anticipating every human need.

Psalm 141:1-2

LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. 2 Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

He has anticipated every human need of ours

1 Samuel 16:7b

For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Luke 2:25-34

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: 29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; 30 For my

eyes have seen Your Salvation 31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, 32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” 33 And Joseph and His mother Mary marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, *“Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against.*

There is not a need in your life which Christ cannot fulfill.

“Are you nuts jack - what about my **need for air,**
how does God involve Himself in that?

Are you nuts jack - what about my **need for food,**
how does God involve Himself in that?

Are you nuts jack - what about my need for **intimacy / sex,**
how does God involve Himself in that?

HIS RETURN

2.) The Purpose of His Return

Luke 2:6-14

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

2a.) It's a Purpose that gives answers.

“Jesus is the Answer”

Makes for a great bumper-sticker – but what's the question?

Colossians 2:8-10

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

O Holy Night

It is the night of Our dear Savior's birth! Long lay the world
In sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world
rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic."
"As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free."

THE PURPOSE OF HIS RETURN

2b.) It's a Purpose that has a forever ending.

There are many varying emotions that come with the words "the end" or "ending"
the context means a lot here, as does the narrative – but remember we're not talking about a
Christmas story here -

In most cases in life, the ending is a sad thing.

*"O my look - it's all over. here comes the finale. That's all.
It's finished. The Show's over. It's the end of the program."*

You'll never hear that from the Lord Jesus Christ.

when Jesus said at the cross, "It is finished" He meant that it was over. And it *was* over – once
and for all - never to be over again, but to be over forever. Forever over is the power of
darkness, over is the power death, over is the power of pain, over is the power of sorrow, over
is the power of hurt...
forever ended are all those things that afflict.

If the saying "And they lived happily ever after" is true – it is only true in Jesus Christ

John 5:37-40

**And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any
time, nor seen His form. 38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent,
Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life;
and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have
life.**

2c.) It's a Purpose that cannot be altered.

Jeremiah 31:31-36

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” 35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, and its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): 36 “If those ordinances depart from before Me, says the LORD, then the seed of Israel shall also cease from being a nation before Me forever.”

Genesis 9:9

“And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,

Isaiah 54:10

For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has mercy upon you.

HIS RETURN

3.) The Proclamation of His Return

I already gave you a hint earlier, **(yeah, it’s kind of a trick question)**
when was the first time the gospel was ever preached?

Genesis 3:15

And I (LORD) will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

But what pre-dates Moses having written this down?

It’s Regarding Abraham the Patriarch,
The numbers vary slightly, but the average conclusion of Abrahams birth
was around 1,960 BC.

It would be another 437 years before Moses the Lawgiver would be born in 1,523 BC and it would be another 80 years after his birth that the 10 commandments would come.

Genesis 15:6

And Abraham believed in the LORD, and He (The LORD) accounted it to Abraham for righteousness.

THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS RETURN

3a.) It's a Proclamation that there is a Heaven

Luke 2:4-15

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with Child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."* 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"* 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."*

3b.) It's a Proclamation that there is a Message.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: after His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."* 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 *"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, *"God with us."* 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her until she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

THE PROCLAMATION OF HIS RETURN

3c.) It's a Proclamation that there is a Way.

Luke 1:1-4,26-33

Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, *"Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"* 29 But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. 30 Then the angel said to her, *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."*

End of Study

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