



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 43 No. 12 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) December 2019

The Times and The Seasons

By Brian Donovan

This is the time of year that is often referred to as "The Christmas Season", or lately, more appropriately called "The Holiday Season" (since it is obvious that the Lord Jesus Christ has nothing to do with the Mass, besides the fact that this lost world wants nothing to do with the Christ). Over the years, the season has been rolled back to begin around Thanksgiving with "Black Friday", the day after the last Thursday of November when the retailers can get out of the red and into the black, proving that the love of money has really been the main purpose for the season all along. This is the "season" that brings on more debt (an average of at least \$1000 per person, with many Americans incurring over \$5000 in debt for Xmas alone), more divorce (more divorces are filed for in January than in any other month),

more loneliness, and more depression (they even have a name for it, called Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD).

According to the song, "'tis the season to be jolly", as the halls are "decked with boughs of holly", yet it is the most miserable time of year for the lost world without Christ. The ancient pagan Druids used holly for good luck, as they searched for a way to live forever, and found it represented by leaves of the holly that remained green throughout the winter. As the ancient, pagan Roman Catholic Church added the Druids to the members of their flock, they allowed them to carry on their pagan customs, including the recognition of the wrong "season" for the birth of Christ, now celebrated December 25th.

There are three times in the scriptures where the words "**times**" and "**seasons**" come together. The first time is in Daniel 2:21, and we are told that it is the Lord who changes the

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Mary, the Mother of Jesus

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

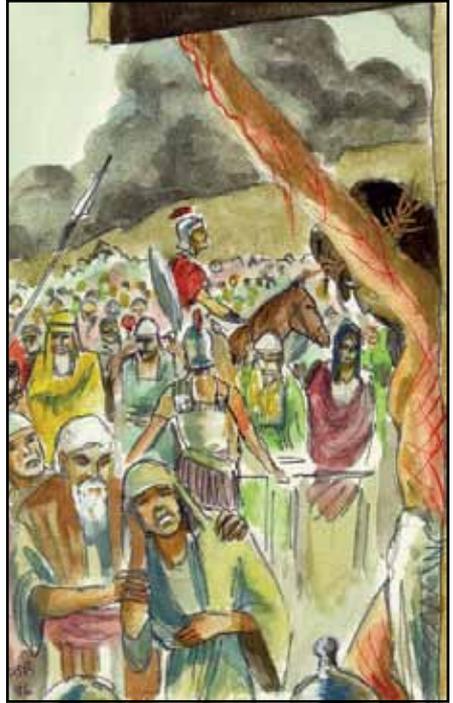
“I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my MOTHER’S CHILDREN. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me” (Psa. 69:8–9).

The above text is a prophecy about Jesus Christ (see John 2:17). One should notice in Psalm 69:8 that the subject of Jesus’ *mother* comes up. According to Roman Catholicism, Mary is supposed to be a “perpetual virgin.” If she were, then the Roman Catholics should teach the perpetual virginity of *Joseph* (unless they think he stepped out on a woman who wouldn’t fulfill her duty as a wife—see 1 Cor. 7:3–5). But as you can see from Psalm 69:8, the mother of Jesus had *other children*. These children are listed in Mark 6:3, and four of them are given *by name*. They weren’t Christ’s “cousins”; they were his **“mother’s children.”**

In this article, we are going to examine the Mary of the *Bible* as compared to the “Mary” of *Roman Catholicism*. They are not the same; they are not even close.

Roman Catholics attribute certain characteristics of God to Mary. For instance, Mary is omniscient: she can hear the prayers of 900 million Catholics all at the same time.

The Roman Catholic teaching on Mary is that she was born sinless, like Christ (the doctrine of the immaculate conception). That is an attribute of God the Son in His incarnation. If you celebrate the birth of the sinless Son of God at Christmas time, why don’t you celebrate the birth of a sinless woman whom Catholics proclaim as



the “Mother of God”? Well, it is celebrated in 25 Roman Catholic countries: the “Feast of the Immaculate Conception” is observed on December 8. But in countries where the Bible has been emphasized over Roman Catholic superstition, the people pay more attention to April Fools’ Day than December 8.

Of course, if it were necessary for a sinless woman to bear a sinless Saviour, wouldn’t it also be necessary for a sinless woman to bear that sinless woman? And if Mary is God’s mother, wouldn’t Mary’s mother be *God’s grandmother*? You see the nonsense involved in believing on the Roman Catholic Mary? She is *not* the humble

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Jewish maiden who submitted to the work of the Holy Spirit in her life.

We are not interested in the female demon who claims to be the “Queen of Heaven” (see Jer. 7:18, 44:17–19, 25). From the *Fatima Crusader* (1991, pg. 26); “If you already pray the Rosary every day, if you always wear the scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, *She is bound to save you from hell* because She is bound by Her promises.” She is called “The Woman who God promised would crush the serpent’s head, ‘thou shalt lie in wait for Her heel and She shall crush thy head . . .’ (Gen. 3:15).”

Why, you dirty, rotten, blasphemous *liar*. Genesis 3:15 reads nothing of the sort. In the Bible, it is the *seed* of the woman who bruises the head of the serpent, not the woman herself. It’s *Jesus Christ*, the virgin-born Son of God; not His mother. That’s true in the AV of 1611; it’s true in the Hebrew Masoretic text from which the King James was translated. The Catholic Encyclopedia even admits that it is true of the Old Latin version that preceded Jerome’s Latin Vulgate by over 250 years. It was *Jerome* who added the pope’s private interpretation into the passage so that Mary would take the place of her Son in bruising the serpent’s head. The Vulgate’s reading was so erroneous that even modern Catholic “Bibles” like the New American and the New Jerusalem get rid of it.

Now when discussing the *real* Mary—the Mary of the *Bible*—the first thing we should know is that she was a *normal human being*, and as any descendant of Adam and Eve, she was a *sinner*. When it came time to

circumcise her Son, she brought the appropriate sacrifice commanded in the law “**for a SIN offering**” (Luke 2:24 cf. Lev. 12:8). As any sinner, she needed a *Saviour*, and she admitted as much (Luke 1:46–47).

I know no pope knows these things, but then again, popes are *stupid*. I know more than any pope in these matters. You say, “The way you talk, Ruckman.” No, the way *you* talk. I am not smarter than any pope because I am such a brilliant intellect. I know more than the popes because I have an authoritative Book, and I *believe it*.

When Elizabeth met Mary, she didn’t call her the Mother of God; she said, “**the mother of my Lord**” (Luke 1:43). The popes don’t know that either. You say, “What’s the difference, Ruckman?” The difference is between the second person of the Trinity who existed from eternity past without any mother giving birth to Him (Mic. 5:2) and the Man Christ Jesus whose body was formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary when she was still a virgin (Luke 1:35). Jesus is the name of a *man*, remember (Luke 1:31–32)?

When William the Conqueror died, he commended his soul to Mary. That’s the worst mistake he ever made: he commended his soul to a *sinner just like himself*. Compare that to Queen Victoria: she commended her spirit into the *Lord’s hand*. That’ll work! If you are going to commend your soul or spirit to anyone at death, then you had better do it to the One *God Almighty chose*—the One who loved you enough to pay the penalty for you because He wasn’t a sinner like His mother.

“Wherefore he is able also to

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save them to the uttermost that come unto God by HIM, seeing HE ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25).

Here's the Mary we don't follow or worship or "venerate": "One day, the Blessed Virgin Mary said, 'I will save the world with My Rosary and My scapular' (*Fatima Crusader*, 1991, pg. 26). Aww! stick it up your nose, Mary. That may be a Blessed Whore speaking (Rev. 17:1–5), but that's not the virgin who claimed *God* as her *Saviour* (Luke 1:47). She knew who the One was who came to save sinners (Matt. 1:21), and she knew it *wasn't her*.

You trust Mary, do you? She *lost* one of her own children (the most important one—Luke 2:43–44). What makes you think she'll be able to keep you any better than she kept Jesus? You're going to entrust your soul to a woman who couldn't even keep track of her own kid? You've got rocks for brains, don't you?

Let me ask you this: if Mary were such a good mother, how is it that she couldn't convince Christ's own brothers, who lived in the same house, to believe on Him (John 7:5)? She wasn't much of a soulwinner, was she? Maybe that's why the church that follows her has to forbid birth control: they have to rely on births into Catholic families for their membership because they follow their "mother" and don't lead anyone to Christ.

You had better learn the difference between some fictitious Roman goddess and the Mary of that Book. The Mary in the Bible was a normal human being just like every other mother. I don't fault Mary for losing Christ when He was twelve years old. No mother

can keep track of her kids 24 hours a day. It is perfectly human to lose your kid in a crowd; it happens all the time. The more you have, the easier it is to lose one, and Mary had at least seven (Mark 6:3).

We've had families here at the Bible Baptist Church leave a kid behind after the services. Oh yeah, man! Momma comes in one car with the kids when she gets them all ready, and daddy comes in another car early to church for some reason. After church, some of the kids go home in momma's car, and some of the kids go home in daddy's car, and here is one standing in the parking lot left behind. Momma thought the kid was with daddy, and daddy thought the kid was with momma. The kid was playing with one of his friends when both parents gave the "load up" signal, so he got left behind. That's typical; I bet any church of any size has had that happen on more than one occasion.

I'll tell you something else about the real Mary: *she demanded no special honors*. Did you know that Jesus never called Mary His mother? No pope knows that, but it's so. Check out John 2:4, 19:26–27. Jesus Christ treated His mother just as He would a Gentile dog (Matt. 15:22–28) and a woman who had been demon possessed (Luke 8:2 cf. John 20:15). Mary never "called His hand" on that, and she never accused Him of disobeying the fifth commandment (Exod. 20:12). As a matter of fact, on the cross, Christ *disowned His mother*: He turned her over to John.

"Then saith he to the disciple, Behold THY mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his

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own home" (John 19:27).

And that wasn't the first time the Lord did that either. During His earthly ministry, Christ was in a house teaching, and the crowd was so great that His mother and His brothers couldn't get in to see Him. When this was pointed out to Jesus, He asked, "**Who is my mother, or my brethren?**" (Mark 3:33). Well, according to Jesus Christ, His mother was NOT Mary at that point.

"And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother" (Mark 3:34–35).

Did you know there was a woman back in the Old Testament who was called "**a great woman**" (2 Kings 4:8), and you don't even know her name. All you know is that she helped out Elisha. When Elisha asked if she wanted him to put a good word in to the king for her, that woman said, "**I dwell among mine own people**" (2 Kings 4:13). She didn't ask for any special favors. *Mary was never called a great woman*, but like that "**great woman**" there in 2 Kings, Mary didn't ask for any special favors either.

The angel said to Mary, "**blessed art thou among women**" (Luke 1:28); the Catholics use that as part of their rosary prayer to Mary. But did you know that in the Old Testament, there is a woman "**Blessed ABOVE women**" (Judg. 5:24). That means that "**Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite**" was *more blessed than Mary*. Then why don't Catholics pray to her? But no pope knows these things. Popes

are some of the most biblically illiterate people you will ever meet.

Now based on what Gabriel told Mary, Mary said, "**behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed**" (Luke 1:48). That was a reasonable assumption to make, but do you know what Jesus said the first time someone tried it?

"And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it" (Luke 11:27–28).

Mary certainly was blessed because she was chosen by God to bear the Son of God into the world, but according to that Son, *anyone* who hears God's word and keeps it is more blessed than Mary.

The last time you read about Mary in the scriptures, she is in the upper room with the other women, praying; she is just one of 120 disciples (Acts 1:13–15). No one gives her the time of day, no one asks her to intercede to her Son on the person's behalf, no one pays any special attention to her at all, AND SHE DOESN'T ASK FOR IT.

Before I was saved, I was taking Catholic convert courses from Father Sullivan at St. Michael's in downtown Pensacola. In the literature he gave me, Mary was called the "Bridge from God to man"—that's a *lie* (Gal. 4:4–5). She was called the "Holy Temple of Christ"—that's a *lie* (1 Cor. 3:16–17; 2 Cor. 6:16). It said Mary was the "Root of Jesse"—a *blasphemous lie* (Isa.

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11:10; Rom. 15:12). She was called the “Scepter of David”—another *lie* (Gen. 49:10; Num. 24:17).

She was called the “Rod of Aaron.” That’s the rod that budded there in Numbers 17:8 to show whose God’s chosen high priest was. That was life from a dead rod: a picture of the resurrection. Nobody even mentioned the “Assumption of Mary” until the fifth century A.D. (although Catholic scholars want to shove it back to the third century with no evidence for doing so). Nobody in the Bible mentioned it; no early Christian said anything about it. It shows up in *apocryphal* literature. Mary did *not* make it to heaven bodily ahead of the rapture, she is *not* anybody’s high priest or priestess (Heb. 3:1), and she is *nobody’s* “Mediatrix” (1 Tim. 2:5).

Catholics call her the “Dwelling Place of the Trinity”—another *blasphemous lie* (Col. 2:9); and she is said to be the “Salvation of the heathen.” Not any heathen who got saved in that Book, no. According to a man who held Christ in his arms (Luke 2:27–28), the One who was God’s “salvation” (Luke 2:30), who came “to lighten the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was the *Son*, NOT the mother. According to the Apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13), Mary had nothing to do with the heathens’ salvation at all (Rom. 15:16; Gal. 1:16).

Now Mary didn’t ask for any of those accolades, she didn’t deserve them, and she didn’t want them. As a matter of fact, her command to every Catholic is: “**Whatsoever HE** [i.e., JESUS CHRIST] **saith unto you, do it**” (John 2:5). Jesus Christ never told anyone to believe on His mother,

pray to His mother, or approach Him through His mother (see John 6:29, 16:24; Matt. 11:28–30). Just wait until these Catholics stand at the White Throne Judgment, and *Mary* steps forward to *testify against them*. Christ said a heathen queen (the queen of Sheba) would show up at the Last Judgment to condemn the generation that heard and rejected Him (Matt. 12:42; Luke 11:31). If He’ll do that to His own people after the flesh, what do you think He will do to a bunch of lost, Christ-rejecting Catholics who call His mother by the title of a female demon (Jer. 44). Mary is going to have some “words” with these popes, cardinals, bishops, and priests who have been defaming her good name.

Now all that being said, there were some good characteristics about the *real* Mary, the Mary of the *Book*, that commend themselves to us. To begin with, *she was submissive to God’s will*. She said, “**be it unto me according to thy word**” (Luke 1:38). Do you know what that “**word**” included? When Mary brings Jesus to the temple to have Him circumcised, Simeon tells her, “**a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also**” (Luke 2:35). In other words, submitting to the word of God involved more than her giving birth to the Messiah; it involved watching her firstborn Son getting tortured to death. Of course, the Catholics have perverted it to the “sacred (or immaculate) heart of Mary”—a heart in Mary’s breast with a flame above it, a sword through it, and a crown of thorns around it.

Nevertheless, there is some truth to the fact that her heart broke for her Son when He went to the cross. I

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imagine it was like dying herself on the inside to watch Jesus go through what He did on the cross, but then again, that was nothing peculiar to Mary. Any mother with natural affection feels that way about her children, especially the firstborn. He will always be her "baby" no matter how old he gets. I was in the home of a black woman one time. She was up in her eighties, and her "boy" was there. She said to me, "That's my baby." The guy was in his *sixties*, but he was still her "baby."

Mary had to watch her "baby" be beaten within an inch of His life. She followed Him up to Calvary through a gauntlet of a howling, jeering mob cursing Him. Then she had to stand by as He was nailed to a cross, having all His bones jolted out of joint and hanging naked before a bunch of sick voyeurs who waited for Him to take His last breath. Don't you know that sister went through the whole horrendous ordeal with her emotions just shattered.

Dead to self; alive to God. A lot of women (and men) haven't gotten to that place yet.

I Must Die

"I must die . . .

Not waiting 'til my hair is white,
Or falling in a battle fight,
Or sleeping on a final night,
But, daily.

"Self must die . . .

All that self ever hoped to be;
Self dies hard, not easily;
In its place my Lord must see
A corpse.

"I must die . . .

Clay I was and clay I'll be;
Let my Potter fashion me,
Then I'll be whatever He
Would wish."

—Bill Harvey

There are well-to-do mothers in America sitting in churches that have an acceptable standing in the community, who are in positions of social influence, who insist on the highest standards of academics and breeding for their children, but who care nothing for the will of God at all. Mother, if God put His hand on your son or daughter to go to the foreign mission field, would you turn your child loose to go and live in conditions and economic hardships in which you wouldn't?

Modern Bible correctors aren't in submission to the words of God in Scripture at all. They don't follow the Bible Mary in that aspect at all, because they are not in submission to anything but their own opinions and preferences. Every one of them will judge that Book, tell you where it is wrong, and change it to fit what he thinks it should say.

The meaning of the word *Islam* is "submission," not "peace." The only "peace" Islam recognizes is when everyone in the world confesses that Allah is the only god and that Mohammed is Allah's prophet. Until everyone does that, every Moslem is in a state of perpetual *war*. If he professes to be peaceful and tolerant of others' beliefs, he is either lying to advance Islam (*taqiyya*) or he is a *hypocrite* according to teachings of the Koran (the words of Allah) and the Hadith (the example of Mohammed). But all that is, is a load of religious bunk from

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a sex maniac who liked to go to bed with nine-year-old girls and would steal his adopted son's wife because he couldn't control his own bestial passions.

Submission to God is submission to the words He put in a Book, and I don't mean a book like the Koran or the Hadith or The Book of Mormon or *The Key to the Scriptures* (Christian Science—Mary Baker Eddy) or the Apocrypha or the writings of Ellen G. White (Seventh-day Adventism) or the Vedas (Hinduism) or the *Tripitaka* (Buddhism) or the *Analects of Confucius* or any irreligious nonsense like that. I am talking about a Book verified by fulfilled prophecy (2 Pet. 1:16–21) and purified in the language of the last days before the return of Christ (Psa. 12:6–7)—an Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible from 1611. Mary submitted herself to the words of God in her own language. *You should do the same.*

Something else Mary did was *she protected Christ's honor*. When she found Jesus in the temple with those doctors of the Jewish law, she said, **“Thy father [referring to Joseph] and I have sought thee sorrowing”** (Luke 2:48). Why, she knew perfectly well that Joseph wasn't His father (Luke 1:30, 35). No one knew that better than she did. Then why did she say that? To protect Him from charges of an illegitimate birth (John 8:41).

How unlike Mary was from the Mary of Catholic tradition. How unlike she was from some women. How unlike from Madalyn Murray O'Hair, the atheist woman who used her son to get Bible reading and prayer out of the public schools. That boy ended

up getting saved *despite his mother*. I got saved despite my mother: I don't remember her saying one good thing about Jesus Christ or the Bible in a lifetime. Nathan Bemis' mother didn't get saved till she was past seventy; I don't reckon he got much good about religion from her while growing up.

Blessed is the man or woman who has a good mother who believes the Book and teaches her children about Jesus Christ and the Bible. The mother of John and Charles Wesley taught them theology growing up. Jack Hyles' mother would make him repeat every night before he went to bed: “This is God's Book; this is the Bible. God wrote this Book.” That sister upheld Christ's honor to that kid. It stuck with him. Oh, he got away from it for a while, trying to impress John R. Rice and get in good with Christian scholarship. But when he got in trouble, he returned to the faith of his mother and believed that Book and exalted it as the infallible, inerrant word of God.

Lester Roloff likened the Bible to his mother. In one of the last times he spoke at the Southwide Baptist Fellowship at Tennessee Temple, he got up and said, “As far as I'm concerned you fellows attacking my King James Bible are just like somebody attacking my mother. If you attacked my mother with a butcher knife, I would take care of you.”

Finally, *Mary didn't lose her faith during disaster*. She remained true. Watching one's son get murdered by wicked men would test a woman to the absolute limit, but Mary passed the test.

In the Great Flood of 1889 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, there was

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 a Christian woman who lost all four of her children. What made that so tragic was that she had put all of them on pieces of floating boards so they would survive. She herself was washed away in the flood waters with nothing to hold onto, but she survived while all four of her children drowned. All that poor woman could say was: "I'm going back to Virginia (her original home) and get things straightened out in my mind." That woman had a stability that only faith in Jesus Christ can give, but from her words you can sense the turmoil inside her that was shaking that faith. I hope she ended up getting full victory over that terrible loss; some don't.

"Buried today:

When the soft green buds are bursting out,

And up on the south wind comes a shout

Of village boys and girls at play
 In the mild spring evening gray.

"Taken away,

Sturdy of heart and stout of limb,
 From eyes that drew half their right from him,

And put low, low underneath the clay,

In his spring—on this spring day.

"Passes away

All the pride of boy-life begun,
 All the hope of life yet to run;
 Who dares to question when One saith 'Nay!'

Murmur not! Only pray.

"Enters today

Another body in church yard sod.

Another soul on the life in God,
 His Christ was buried—and lives
 away;

Trust Him, and go your way."

"Buried Today" by Dinah Mulock Craik

There's an old-time Presbyterian preacher whose material I use a good bit: his name was DeWitt Talmage. He pastored in New York and was out doing visitation in an apartment complex when he saw a woman in her seventies struggling up the stairs to her apartment. Being in good shape at that time, Talmage said, "Mother, that's no way to get up those stairs." With that, he picked that frail woman up and carried her up forty steps to her apartment.

Whenever I see an unsaved woman, especially an unsaved mother, in bondage to a false religious system like the Roman Church, struggling to get up to heaven through sacraments, prayers to saints, alms-giving, good deeds, good manners, etc., I can see in my mind's eye the Saviour say, "That's no way to get up stairs; let me carry you." If you want to get to heaven, you'll get there through *Him*, not Mary.

Years ago, an elderly woman from a rest home got saved and came out to my church wanting me to baptize her. That poor woman could barely walk, and I had to hold on to her all the way into the baptismal pool and out. That sister kept saying in a voice full of fear and gasping for breath, "Don't let go of me; don't let go of me!" I didn't blame her. When you get up in age, you have a fear of falling down and seriously hurting yourself; you won't

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heal up as easily as you did when you were younger. I told that dear sister, "Just lean all your weight on me; I'll get you in and out."

If you are lost, I am going to tell you how to be saved. It doesn't involve baptism, the Mass, good works, church attendance, or prayers to Mary. All you need to do is lean all your "weight" on Jesus Christ, and He'll get you in. Trust completely on Him and what He did for you on the cross, and you'll make it.

Merry Christmas Tract



The Bookstore has developed a basic Christmas tract for holiday distribution.

Illustrated with Dr. Ruckman's artwork, this tract presents Christ as Saviour, coming King, and Judge.

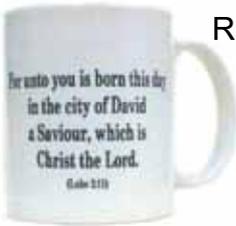
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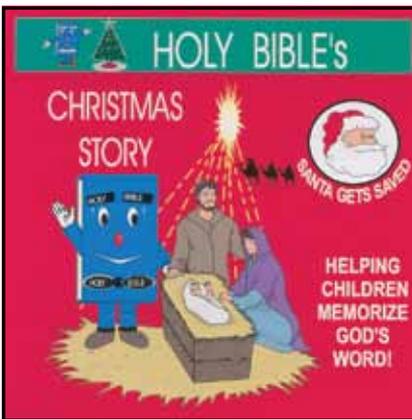
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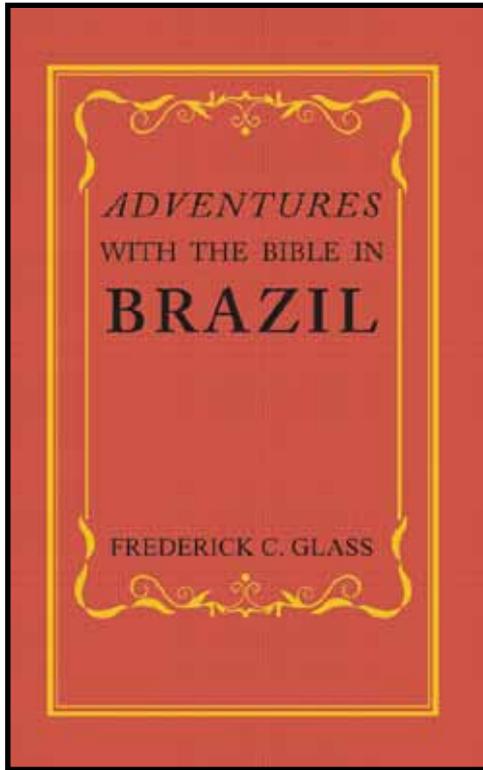


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The Times and The Seasons

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“**times and the seasons**”. In a previous article, we showed how the Lord at some point in the Old Testament history, changed the calendar year from an exact 360 day year of twelve, thirty day months (Genesis 7:11 with Genesis 8:3-4), to its present 365 1/4 day journey of the Sun’s course through the firmament. The Lord will once again change “**the times and the seasons**” when the tribulation period of 1260 days marks out an exact forty-two months, reverting back to a 360 day year of exact 30 day months. The imitator (Satan) will think to “**change times and laws**” through his own imitation son (the antichrist - John 6:70, Job 21:7-8) during that same time (Daniel 7:25), since he “**knoweth that he hath but a short time**” (Revelation 12:12).

The first mention of the word “**seasons**” in the KJV is in Genesis 1:14, and the Lord shows us that He placed the Sun, Moon, and stars in the firmament to mark out the days, seasons, and years. The four seasons of the year are given in Genesis 8:22 as seedtime (spring), harvest (autumn), cold (winter), and heat (summer). As a side note, the Lord reminds you that these seasons will not cease as long as the earth is still here, so do not fret your little “Earth Day” brain about trying to save it, as it is going to be burned up in a fire like never before. Your “carbon footprint” will last no longer than last year’s meatloaf.

The Bible says that “**To every thing there is a season, and a**

time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1), and the Lord wants his people to acknowledge some special “**times**” and “**seasons**”. In his own times, the Lord set dates for important events and then instructs his people to remember them. When he called Abraham out of his country into a land that he would show him (Genesis 12:1-4), a famine caused him and his seed to go down into Egypt (Genesis 12:9) and thus began a 430 year sojourn that did not end until the Lord pulled Israel out of Egypt on Passover night (Exodus 12:40). The date is so exact, the Lord says that they came out 430 years later, “**even the selfsame day**” (verse 41). Though not told this back in Genesis 12, the verse in Exodus shows that Abraham went down to Egypt on the 14th of Abib, before it even became the date of the Passover. The Lord repeatedly tells his people Israel, that they are to remember this “**season**” always (Exodus 13:10, Leviticus 23:4-5, Numbers 9:2, Deuteronomy 16:6, and other places). That night was one “**to be much observed**” (Exodus 12:42), and a day to be remembered (Exodus 13:3). The Passover is a very strong type of our salvation in this present church age; hence, we are never to forget the day we were saved out of Egypt, nor the blood that was shed that the Father’s wrath might “**pass over**” us when he looks upon it (Exodus 12:13). The day of your second birth ought to be much more remembered than

The Times and The Seasons

Continued from 12
 the day of your first birth. The Lord's **"time"** and **"season"** for this event were calculated and prophesied, even to Abraham (Genesis 15:16), and could not take place until the sands of God's clock were up. The Passover event is one of the benchmarks for Bible-believing chronology, and the set up of Solomon's temple, 480 years later, is even dated by it (I Kings 6:1).

Another great event that the Lord set up in his **"time"** was the incarnation of his Son, the Lord Jesus. There was a set time on the Lord's calendar for his birth, and the scripture says that **"when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law"** (Galatians 4:4). In order to fulfill the prophetic calendar of Daniel 9, the Son of God came **"in the likeness of sinful flesh"** (Romans 8:3), at a specific time. The world has neither the right **"time"** for this event (claiming the year was 4 B.C.) nor the right **"season"** (as they have matched it to the pagan celebration of the winter solstice in December). Though his birth is important and on God's time, the emphasis on his second coming in power has ten times the scripture references, compared to his birth. The Old Testament dedicates whole chapters to his return to rule over the **"kingdoms of this world"** (Revelation 11:15), and if the reader thinks that this is an overstatement, go back and read Isaiah 9, 11, 34, 35, 60, 61, 63; Ezekiel 37 through 48; Joel 2, 3; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah

13, 14; and Malachi 4 to name a few.

There was also a **"time"** and a **"season"** for the beginning of the ministry of the Lord Jesus and the scripture points this out, especially in the gospel of Luke. Luke gives enough details for the Bible believer to pick up the significance for the timing in these events. In Luke 1:5, he lets us know that the conception of John the Baptist was right after his father was performing his priestly duties and that he was **"of the course of Abia"**. When we look back to I Chronicles 24:10, we see that Abijah's course was the 8th lot (with 24 lots in the year, this places the time for John's conception near the end of the fourth month), meaning John's birth nine months later was near the Passover in the first month. Luke also points out that the conception of Christ is six months later than John's (Luke 1:26), placing the birth of Christ at Tabernacles in the seventh month. So when Christ **"began to be about thirty years of age"** (Luke 3:23), he began his ministry near the time of the feast of Tabernacles, and Mark 1:15 shows that the start of his ministry and anointing is connected to an important time, saying, **"The time is fulfilled"**. The time that is being fulfilled is none other than Daniel's 69 weeks of prophecy, which began with **"the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem"**, and ends with **"unto Messiah the Prince"** (Daniel 9:25). That is why Luke takes special care to point out the timing, and why

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The Times and The Seasons

Continued from 13

Jesus himself began his ministry with the proclamation that **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand"** (Mark 1:15). The baptism of Jesus Christ took place when he was thirty years of age, and he was anointed from heaven at that time as the Messiah (John 1:31 -34), which caused Andrew to run to get his brother Peter to let him know that **"We have found the Messiah"** (John 1:41). We know that Christ's ministry ends at the Passover on Calvary, so his ministry runs three-and-one-half years (from Tabernacles in the seventh month to Passover in the first month).

The Lord God also set a time for the death of Jesus Christ. During the whole thirty-three-and-one-half years in the life of Christ, he could not be touched until the set time. Herod tried to kill him as a young child, going to the extreme of killing every baby two years of age and under throughout Bethlehem (Matthew 2:16). Years later, while preaching at the synagogue in Nazareth caused the men to thrust him out of the city and bring him to the brow of a hill to throw him down, he simply **"passing through the midst of them went his way"** (Luke 4:28-30). The same thing happened when the Pharisees took up stones to stone him in John 8:59. Another time while in the temple, they also attempted to take him, but the scripture says, **"but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come"** (John 7:30). Until the set time was come, no one

was able to kill him, as he told them **"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again"** (John 10:18). The Lord Jesus got up from the Passover meal with his disciples and walked across the brook Kidron and up the Mount of Olives to Gethsemane, and acquiesced to the timing of the Father, saying in prayer, **"Father, the hour is come"** (John 17:1), and then willingly went to his death.

With his death on Calvary, the Lord Jesus began the mystery of the body of Christ during this present church age (Ephesians 1:16), which **"was kept secret since the world began"** (Romans 16:25). The mystery church age also has a **"time"** to it, and will continue until the Lord Jesus returns to call his bride home at the rapture. The temporary setting aside and blinding of Israel must take place until **"the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"** (Romans 11:25), and the lost Gentile world has been given an appointed time (at least until the rapture) to be saved by grace through faith, since Israel refused and crucified her Messiah. This **"fulness of the Gentiles"**, into the body of Christ, is not to be confused with another time called **"the times of the Gentiles"**. Ever since 606 B.C., when the Lord took the crown to the kingdom of heaven away (Lamentations 5:16), the Gentile kings have continued to fight each other over the **"kingdoms of the earth"** (Ezra 1:2), the **"kingdom of**

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The Times and The Seasons

Continued from 14
men" (Daniel 4:32), and the **"kingdoms of this world"** (Revelation 11:15), until God's **"time"** for them is over. The Lord's clock is running, and the **"times of the Gentiles"** to trod down Jerusalem are about to be fulfilled through the tribulation period and terminate at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 21:24). Since many preachers do not study the scriptures and rightly divide them (II Timothy 2:15), they confuse their congregations into thinking that they should be taking part in this fight for **"the kingdom of men"** (making America great again, etc.), instead of making the spiritual distinction that places an effort into getting both the Jews and Gentiles saved and into the body of Christ. It makes you wonder what message these American preachers would be preaching if they had a congregation in Lebanon, Syria, Spain, Italy, or a number of other countries.

Another place where the scripture uses **"times"** and **"seasons"** together is found in Acts 1:7, where the Lord answered his disciples regarding their question of him restoring the kingdom to Israel, saying, **"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons"**. Without any of them being aware of it, the mystery church age had just begun, and the disciples were rightfully looking for the physical kingdom to be restored as prophesied in the prophets. The Lord Jesus did not rebuke them for the question but told them that it was not for them to know at that time.

It appears that during the first few chapters in the book of Acts, the Lord was still working in Jerusalem and giving the nation of Israel a chance to repent and turn back to the Messiah they had just crucified. A transition was taking place from offering Israel their physical kingdom to the offer of the spiritual **"kingdom of God"** (Acts 1:3), which defines this present church age (Romans 14:17), and that transition continued to progress through the first chapters in the book of Acts. In finishing the answer to their question, the Lord told them that they were to be witnesses **"in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"** (Acts 1:8), which is the program for exactly how church history takes place. The disciples go out, and after being trained about the spiritual kingdom of God by the Lord Jesus for forty days (Acts 1:3), you will search in vain for them wasting any more time with the physical **"kingdom of heaven"** message, which is so prevalent during the earthly ministry of the Messiah to Israel in the four gospels. As soon as the Jews stone Stephen in Jerusalem in Acts 7, the Lord immediately takes the next step and pulls Philip away to Samaria in Acts 8, where he begins **"preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God"** (Acts 8:12). The apostle Paul's very first missionary journey going out to Asia Minor is about this same spiritual **"kingdom of God"** (Acts 14:22). The Book of Acts ends with Paul in the uttermost part of the

Continued on 19

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The Times and The Seasons

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 earth, still testifying and preaching the **“kingdom of God”** (Acts 28:23, 31). We are most surely near the very end of this **“fulness of the Gentiles”** and then this world will head into the period of the tribulation. It is **“high time to awake out of sleep”**, for the **“night is far spent”** (Romans 13:11-12). The Christian should be aware of both the **“time”** and the **“season”**.

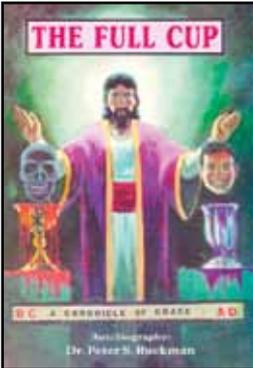
The next place for the **“times and the seasons”** is found in I Thessalonians 5:1-2. Paul instructs the body of Christ that they have no need for

him to write to them of the **“times and the seasons”** regarding **“the day of the Lord”** (verse 2). Those saved during the church age will have been caught up to be with the Lord (I Thessalonians 4:17), and that day is called **“the day of Christ”** (II Thessalonians 2:2, Philippians 1:10, Philippians 2:16), NOT the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord is a reference to the literal return of the Lord Jesus and his millennial kingdom (with some overlap back into the tribulation period), and it comes **“as a thief in the night”** (verses 2

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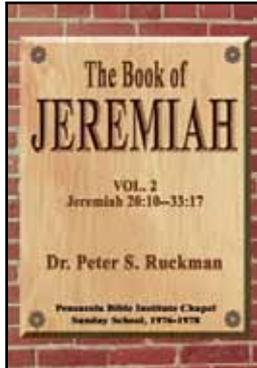
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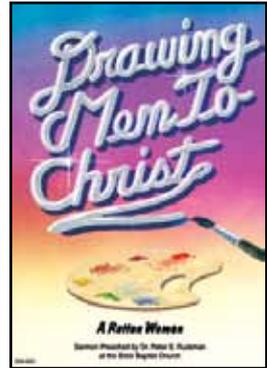
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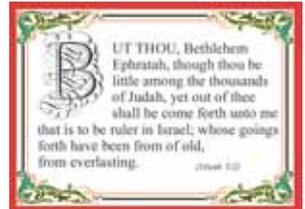
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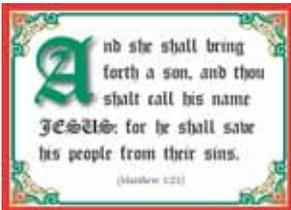
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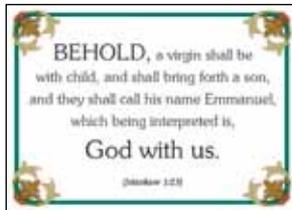
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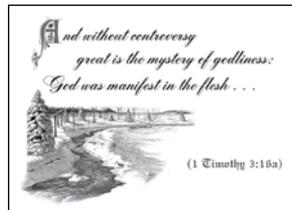
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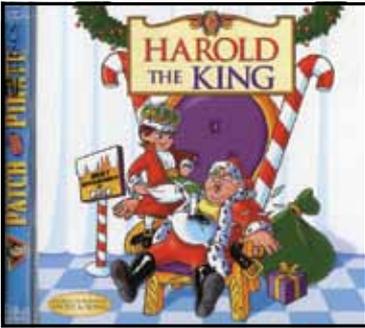
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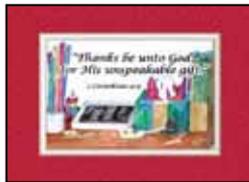
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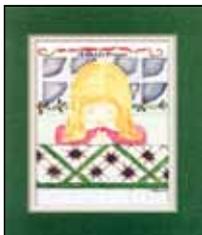
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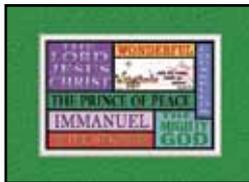
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The Times and The Seasons

Continued from 19

and 4).

When the Bible believer compares scripture with scripture, he finds that phrase matches the second coming of Christ at the end of the tribulation period, NOT the **“day of Christ”** at the rapture of his bride. In Matthew 24:43, the Lord describes his return as a **“thief”** and the whole context is the tribulation period (see verses 29-43). His second coming is also described as a **“thief”** in Revelation 16:15, and again, the context is someone in the tribulation period, awaiting his return to this earth (see the whole chapter). So the child of God in this church age has no need of being concerned with the **“times and the seasons”** connected to the **“day of the Lord”**, as we are **“children of the day”** and **“not of the night”** (I Thessalonians 5:5), and therefore not looking for a **“thief in the night”** (verse 2) that might overtake us (verse 4).

Our longing is for the **“day of Christ”**, which is our **“blessed hope”** (Titus 2:13), and we are told that great day has some warning signals before it takes place. Though the actual change of our bodies from corruptible to incorruptible, will take place in a moment (I Corinthians 15:51-54), and the dead bodies of the saints are raised **“in the twinkling of an eye”** (verse 52), there are some warning signs to the event that the apostle Paul wrote for Christians to be aware of and expecting. Paul was not stealing anyone’s crown for letting them know that the day of Christ **“shall not**

come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed” (II Thessalonians 2:2-3). Nor was he getting Christians to quit looking for and expecting the day of the rapture by teaching them these things. It most certainly is imminent and can be at any time, but certainly not before these signals take place. None of the warnings that Paul taught require years of extended time. The falling away (already has happened), the dead in Christ rising, the man of sin revealed, and more than one trump going off (since there is a LAST trump I Corinthians 15:52), are all things that can take place before we go to sleep tonight. The rapture is on a set time that is marked on the Lord’s calendar, and the fact that he has yet to reveal the time does not mean that we should not be looking for it. Nowhere in the scripture are we told that you CANNOT know the day or the hour. The favorite misapplied scriptures of those who teach that you cannot know the set time of the rapture (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32), are tribulation verses for those awaiting his return to earth at the second advent (Why don’t you look them up right now, read them, and take note of the context?). A crown of righteousness is promised to **“all them also that love his appearing”** (II Timothy 4:8), and every child of God should be studying and looking for the signals of this next great event on the Lord’s timepiece.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

December 13-15

New Heights Baptist Church
15490 E Hampden Ave.
Ste 100
Aurora, CO 80013
Pastor Adrian Dominguez
(720) 532-4630

February 7-9

Gospel Light Baptist Church
1225 N. Washington Street
Enid, OK 73701
Pastor Steve Meier
(580) 237-4300

January 17-19

Bible Believers Baptist Church
3857 Hartley Road
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Pastor David Peacock
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A Welcome Tolerance

By Robert Militello

“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me” (1 Cor. 16:9). Paul was a classic Jewish opportunist. He was driven by one desire only—preaching the risen Saviour of all men. His field was the Roman world, and today, he would be labeled a frequent flyer. Looking for open doors, he must have “lived out of a suitcase.”

Years ago, on Saturday night, I used to watch black-and-white Westerns on TV. One very good one was “Have Gun Will Travel.” Paladin (one name only) was a professional gunman for hire. He always seemed to accomplish his mission for his various employers. Paladin’s card featured a knight chess piece by his name under the title, “Have Gun” I suppose Paul could have used a card entitled, “Have Truth—Will Explain.” A Christian should always be ready to go out on a job for his boss.

The church of Jesus Christ in the Western world has been given a gift called “Christmas.” It is a time when the gospel gets a little more breathing room in places where it has no friends. I know this from dealing with Jews at Christmas time. Sadly, there has been an ever-increasing hostility toward God’s word in our secular society. Therefore when tolerance is shown toward those who love the Lord and seek to win souls, we should rejoice. So I thank God for Christmas, regardless of how vain, worldly, and even obnoxious it has become in our day.

President Ulysses S. Grant declared Christmas a legal holiday in 1870. No other legal holiday on our calendar attaches itself to a bibli-

cal event. Thanksgiving Day acknowledges the debt we owe for our abundant blessings as a nation. Yet Christmas brings to mind the birth of a Jewish male who was to leave such a mark on this world that our calendar records years as before Christ (B.C.) and after His birth (A.D.): in Latin, *Anno Domini* (A.D.) means “in the year of our Lord.” This is A.D. 2019 all over the world, and A.D. will remain until the Antichrist seeks to change the times (Dan. 2:21).

Christmas calls believers to continue what the shepherds began without hesitation—evangelization.

“And when they had seen it [Luke 2:11], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child” (Luke 2:17).

The first evangelicals had a message. An angel gave them **“good tidings of great joy”** for all (Luke 2:10), not just Jews. Israel needed a Saviour, not more religion. They had plenty of that. All men everywhere need a Saviour, **“For all have sinned”** (Rom. 3:23). Regardless of how commercialized Christmas has become, it has at its core a message—God cares about men. He cared enough to send His Son to be butchered by them because holiness demands payment for sin. The baby born in Bethlehem was going to make a complete payment for sin, satisfying His Father’s justice and allowing pardons to be given freely in His Son’s name to all who would believe. No child ever born into this world would be asked to bear the burden Jesus took to Himself. All the vanities that have attached them-

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A Welcome Tolerance

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selves to Christmas over the years still cannot hide the power exerted by the life of a Jewish carpenter turned preacher. That power alone caused our government to recognize His birthday before anyone else's; including Columbus, Washington, Lincoln, and Martin Luther King Jr., if you can believe it.

One week before Christmas, 1914, French, British, and German soldiers who had been killing each other since the Great War began in August, crossed their respective trenches to exchange Christmas greetings. In some areas along the front, soldiers on both sides ventured into "no man's land" on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to exchange food and necessities. Meetings between the combatants featured prayer, prisoner exchanges, and carol singing. There is something about Christmas. It can soften hard hearts and light up a space in darkened minds. The love of God has a power to it that goes far beyond human comprehension. It is directed toward us every day in many ways, but Christmas brings it into sharper focus. There is a joy about Christmas that puts people to call to mind the blessedness of childhood innocence. Little minds and hearts not yet polluted by sin looked forward to a magical time when loved ones embraced and everyone seemed a little more kind and content. Oh the joys we forfeit because we go our own way and accommodate ourselves to a world that has little use for Jesus, even at Christmas time.

God, in His goodness, has given to His saints a favorable sowing sea-

son—that is what Christmas is for us. I found Jews to be considerably more amenable to hearing about Jesus because Christmas had such a warm effect upon Gentiles they associated with, or even had in their extended families. What you see in human nature is a particular curiosity in the way we see others manifest joy. We are often envious of those who are able to navigate the troubles of life without becoming joyless. Paul in Acts 20:24 talked about finishing his **"course with joy."** Untold millions of Americans struggle with Christmas, looking for a joy they would love to have in their souls, but are not sure where to find it. Religion cannot supply that joy. You won't find it under a Christmas tree. So the celebration of Christmas is used by the Holy Spirit to spur countless millions to consider the state of their souls. The season, according to studies made, brings many into a state of depression and gloom. Our God would have all men drawn to His Son, so obviously, Christmas serves His purpose, and we should pray for open doors and wisdom to exploit the season to maximum advantage. Amen?

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15). There are those in the body of Christ who have problems with Christmas because of this verse. Years ago, a Christian came at me for having a tree in my house. He said it was an idol. Without going into why he was deficient in his understanding of Christian liberty, I told him that growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ does not

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happen overnight. Our adversary is skilled at bringing believers into contention over stuff that he wants you to think really matters to God. Too many saints put themselves into a spiritual straitjacket obsessing over things that are about as important as political speeches during an election season. Keep Christmas or don't keep it, but do all things to the glory of God.

“And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8).

Jews admire Gentiles who are opportunists. The story of the unjust steward in Luke 16 shows an employee stealing from his boss. Is it right to commend thievery? What is the employer then commending? Obviously, it's the way in which the recently fired employee (vs. 2) found a way to extract gain out of a dire situation. Taking opportunities when and where they arise, regardless of planning or principle is opportunism in action. That's the name of the game in politics and many other pursuits. As believers, we are duty bound to live honestly. We have constraints attached to our behavior that the lost may not concern themselves with. Are we then expected to close our eyes to situations where an opening for truth presents itself? If opportunists are thought of as self-promoting manipulators, are we to forget what Paul said about his methods? **“But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being CRAFTY, I CAUGHT YOU WITH**

GUILE” (2 Cor. 12:16).

There is a Jew telling you plainly how he operates.

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

Christmas is a door of opportunity for all of us. Thank God for it, and who cares if it came from the Catholic Church? Christians sometimes eat like religious Jews, refusing to eat that which they are told is not kosher. That's really sad.

What many wish to ignore at Christmas is that there is a God who stepped into history at a certain time and that He keeps His word. Now the fact that the Catholic Church makes a big deal about Christmas is kind of ironic. As a Catholic, I heard nothing about the prophecies concerning the Lord's second coming. In their creed, they confess He will come again to judge the living and the dead, but that's it—nothing more. The coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ (fully grown and not a baby) to take over **“the kingdoms of this world”** (Rev. 11:15) is something the pope dares not to discuss. Why? Our Lord's second coming is really an uncomfortable topic for those who possess power over the minds of millions. A God of judgment does not sell well at Christmas time, so why talk about Him? Well, if the Prince of Peace couldn't bring peace to a wicked world at His first coming, something important remains unfinished. I use Christmas to talk about His second coming just to see the reactions I get.

“And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore WHY SPEAK

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YE NOT A WORD OF BRINGING THE KING BACK?" (2 Sam. 19:10).

If Christmas is not a golden opportunity to talk about Jesus, then what is its value—seriously? What subject or what person can you talk about freely without getting tired?

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for OF THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART HIS MOUTH SPEAKETH” (Luke 6:45).

Some years ago, I took my family on a trip from Brooklyn to Pennsylvania Dutch country—Lancaster County. The rolling countryside is saturated with farms run by the Amish, Mennonite, and Hutterite congregants. These are thrifty, hard-working “plain folk” trying to please God by living virtuous lives. If any are really saved among them, it is not the result of preaching they hear on Sunday. They live a disciplined life apart from the world much like Catholic monks, except they have families. Talk of having a form of godliness but not the power found in the Holy Spirit, these people fit the bill perfectly. What a shame! They sometimes refer to themselves as the **“quiet in the land,”** a phrase found in Psalm 35:20. There’s a certain religious pride attached to that designation that I took issue with.

In a conversation I had with one of the “quiet ones,” I said that Christians ought to open their mouths for Jesus.

“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed

from the hand of the enemy” (Psa. 107:2).

You can’t open your mouth and brag about Jesus and the eternal life He has given you if you don’t know that you have it. These poor people are lost and are no different than I was as a lost Catholic, except for their straw hats and suspenders holding up their trousers. It’s pitiful. I said that if you know the Lord, you can’t be **“quiet in the land,”** especially around Christmas. Also, the idea of clumping yourselves together in one large community and hiding from the world makes you members of a non-Catholic monastery whether you realize that or not. We are salt according to the Lord, and we are sprinkled everywhere to slow down the decay in society. Well, I soon returned to Brooklyn and drove through an orthodox Jewish neighborhood noticing the similarity of lifestyles between orthodox Jews and lost Amish and Mennonites. Religious zeal that doesn’t spring from the Holy Spirit is the same as spraying room deodorant over dog poop.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Matt. 7:22–23).

Multiple millions of professing Christians will attend Christmas services again this year. Like the years prior, they will walk into church lost and walk out the same way. The sermons they will hear will be elongated

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versions of what appears on a Hallmark Christmas greeting card with a Bible verse sprinkled here and there. Lost souls for some reason appear more lost at Christmas time than at any other time of year. Trying to counterfeit the joy of the Lord is useless; you either have it or you don't. Christmas has a draw to it. It brings the lost soul nearer to Jesus than at any other time of year. A gift under a tree with your name on it should be opened. Millions will leave it there and die lost—that's hard to fathom unless you know the scripture.

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT, BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL" (John 3:19).

There is a challenge connected with Christmas that causes many who seek to know God to stumble and remain spiritually blinded. **"And without controversy GREAT is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh"** (1 Tim. 3:16). Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Muslims, Jews, and others can't handle the idea that the Creator of the universe stepped down from glory and became a man. To fully comprehend the love of God for lost man is impossible because of our sinful nature, but believing that Jesus was fully divine gives you a glimpse of a love that cannot be measured. Humility in its most visible manifestation is a glorious, holy, and pure being leaving a throne of unimaginable splendor and taking human flesh in a stable for animals permeated with the smell of waste. Imagine a beau-

tiful bride decked in spotless white willing to fall into a neglected septic tank. The thought is repulsive, but this is the God we are called upon to love unreservedly. Christmas means giving much more than receiving, and it is sad that so many need a special season of the year to remind them of what really matters.

Now to my Jewish friends and acquaintances, Christmas was a hot potato. Their unbelief in Jesus as Messiah is based on His failure to bring peace. Few of them bother to read their own Book. Fewer still will read any portion of the prophets. Nevertheless, Christmas can sometimes open a window in their minds. Some even join in the singing of carols with Gentile neighbors and co-workers. There is something in all of us that resents the feeling of being left out. Christmas is for many a season of loneliness and not just among Jews. Yet, if allowed to open the Scripture, we know there is a power in the word that can penetrate the hardest of hearts. If the opportunity presented itself, I would use Micah 5:2 to show a Jew that the promised Messiah comes into time from eternity: He is divine. This startles a Jew.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephraim, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH HAVE BEEN FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING" (Mic. 5:2).

The Pharisees couldn't handle this like the rabbis of today. **"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, BEFORE ABRA-**

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HAM WAS, I AM. Then took they up stones to cast at him” (John 8:58–59).

Can a baby born in a stable be God Almighty also? This is the **“mystery of godliness”** (1 Tim. 3:16), and a mystery confounds common sense. This day we call Christmas reminds us that all things are possible with God. Only God knows how many sons and daughters of Abraham

would find Christ in their own Book, if only they would open it and allow the Holy Spirit to unlock the door of their hearts.

For Christians also, not knowing the scriptures keeps them from being a special key to be used of God to unlock hearts and minds still in darkness. I thank God for Christmas because it allows me to use the key God gave me to spread the word and

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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word *“Christian”* originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph’s bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of “preference”—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are “almost the originals,” although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can “tolerate” these if those who believe in them will “tolerate” US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of “PREFERENCE.” You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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do what the shepherds did that first Christmas Eve. It's the Lord's business, and all who are saved have joined on to a Father-and-Son business. Jews are good in business, or haven't you noticed?

In these last days before the Lord comes for us (Tit. 2:13), any respite our society might enjoy from the deluge of corruption, immorality, and perversion now all around us should be welcomed. We are told in Philipians 4:8 what to **"think on."** Look at the list and see if the Christmas season fits into those things that benefit our soul. There's not much good to say about the road we are on in America today. Family life is eroding, suicides are becoming ubiquitous, drug use is a plague from hell, and the fear of the Lord continues to vanish, so a season of joy helps us smile when there's not much to smile about. If God made Christmas just for children, that would be fine with me. If a parent or grandparent cannot see the kindness of God in giving children a magical season of wonderment and excitement, then that adult has lived too long in a dark place. Charles Dickens knew this and gave us the classic, *A Christmas Carol*, a story that God sees those whose hearts have become stoney and need a miracle. Do you know anyone like that without Christ and without hope in this world? Pray the Lord visits that soul for Christmas. Someone, somewhere, prayed for you and me once, or the Lord would not have knocked on our hearts.

As a child, I remember enjoying the Laurel and Hardy 1934 classic, "Babes in Toyland," also known as

"March of the Wooden Soldiers." I loved that movie and looked forward to seeing it every Christmas on WPIX, Channel 11 in New York. The film opened with a song, "Toyland," and it went like this: "Toyland, Toyland, magical girl and boy land. Once you pass its borders, you may never return again." That line made me sad. Childhood has an innocence and a wonderment to it that will be lost one day. Adam and Eve were created to live forever enjoying that innocence, walking with the Lord. Jesus came to bring back what was lost. One day, not long after the Lord saved me, I was enjoying Christmas with my children and watching the Laurel and Hardy classic. When I heard the song "Toyland," I no longer felt sad. My Saviour had made it clear to me that being born again also meant that I would someday return to a place of innocence and amazement. Yes, I passed the border of Toyland when the law showed me I was a sinner. Without Jesus, I lived in a land of fear and guilt. Religion could not return me to the place of joy I was driven from. Now I know where I'm headed. Is anyone like our Jesus?

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" (Matt. 19:13-14).

Oh, what a Saviour we serve!

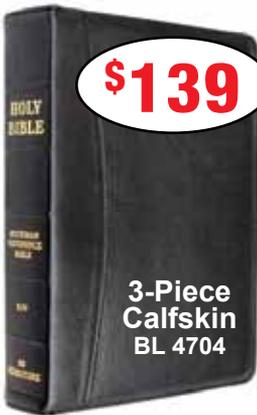
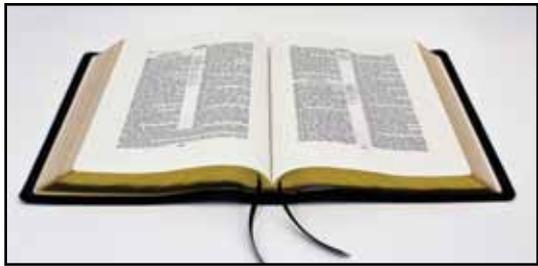
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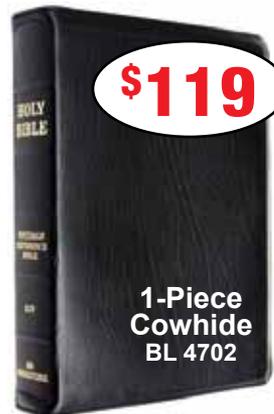
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