

“The Christmas Story: By Appointment”

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and partake again of the event as recorded in Holy Scripture (Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-23 and Luke 2 :1-40) we cannot help but give praise and honor to the One who has given us life! The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of what had been foretold and revealed to men who were moved upon by God Himself. What was in the mind and heart of God and revealed to and recorded by men was brought to pass in the birth of Jesus Christ. All was by appointment.

There was the appointed time for Jesus to be revealed. **“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman...”** (Galatians 4:4 NIV). Other translations say the **“fullness of time”, the “right time”, the “proper time”, and “the time arrived that was set by God the Father”**. There was nothing random about Christ’s birth – it was the appointed time – the time for God to reveal His plan for mankind – even us!

There was an appointed place. When Herod asked where the Messiah was supposed to be born the reply was **“In Bethlehem in Judea”** (Matthew 2:5 NLT). **“O Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are but a small Judean village, yet you will be the birthplace of my king who is alive from everlasting ages past”** (Micah 5:2 LB)! So we see that long before the revelation of Jesus there was the prophetic word – the appointed place where He would be born.

There was the appointed way – God’s way to bring and offer life to us – even Jesus the Lord of Glory. God spoke to Joseph – by an angel in a dream telling him to take unto himself Mary as his wife **“because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins”** (Matthew 1:20, 21 NIV). **“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet – The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means ‘God with us’** (Matthew 1:22,23 NIV). Isaiah 7:14LB records an identical word spoken to and by the prophet Isaiah declaring God would give his people a sign – that sign was Jesus- His earthly beginning and God’s appointed way.

We look now at the appointed One. Isaiah spoke prophetically about Him – the One we are so blessed and privileged to belong to and walk with in the here and now.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:6-7NIV).

“A SHOOT will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD – and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes – or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples: the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious “(Isaiah 11:1-5, 10 NIV).

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me (the Anointed One, the Messiah) to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed (who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity). To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord (the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound” (Luke 4: 18, 19 AMP). See also Isaiah 61: 1, 2. This is our Jesus!!

You had an appointed time – the day of salvation when your new life in Christ began. There are many appointed times for you as you walk with Him – and grow in Him. Jesus had an appointed earthly beginning and then He walked and lived out the will and plan of His Father – day by day. So shall it be for us. There are within the will of God appointed places for us – not just in the physical realm – but spiritually speaking – places where He will reveal Himself to us. He is without question the only way – and delights to make Himself known to us if we but seek him. Glory to God for the appointed One – God’s choice to bring us from death to life. No religion, no institution, no group, no individual will ever do for you what Jesus has done. As we celebrate His birth – may we meditate on and remember how carefully and wondrously God (in His Great Love) provided just what we needed in the Person of His Son – even Jesus – holy, harmless, and blameless – who loved us and gave Himself for us!

2 Corinthians 9:15

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.” KJV

“Thank God for his Son – his Gift too wonderful for words.” LB

“Now thanks be to God for His Gift (Precious) beyond telling (His indescribable, inexpressible, free Gift)!” AMP

Father, I pray for my sisters – that you would give them in this Season good and perfect gifts according to your word – not only outwardly but inwardly – that will strengthen and sustain them, that will cause them to rejoice with a new-found joy, that their peace would increase, and that your purposes and plans for their lives would become clear and focused. Thank you for expressing your Love to each one in a special way.

*In the Name of your Matchless Son
I pray believing ...*

Amen

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