

“Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read...” – Isaiah 34:16

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Christmas – The Real Reason

To begin this fourth newsletter, in the month wherein a large part of the world celebrates Christmas, I would point out an obvious fact... that the word “Christmas” is not found in the book of the LORD.

From a prior study, we took note that Jesus is...

the Sun of righteousness (Malachi 4:2);

the bright and morning star (Revelation 22:16).

The sun was made on the 4th day of the creation (Genesis 1); and it is possible also (from indications given by God in his written word) that Jesus was born on the 4th day of the 7-day feast of tabernacles that occurs in the 7th month of the Jewish calendar (Leviticus 23:34), which is in our September/October timeframe. It is likely also that this feast of tabernacles coincided with the week of the creation: and that Jesus the Sun of righteousness was born on the very day of the year on which he made the Sun in the sky. The point to make is that not only does “Christmas” not appear in the bible; but also that Jesus, whose birth is celebrated by many at Christmastime, was not born on Christmas day (or even in the Christmas month of *December*).

But the purpose of this newsletter’s introductory section is not to derail Christmastime celebrations of Jesus’ birth. Rather, the purpose is to consider the real reason for his birth – “according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4), “as it is written” (Matthew 26:24)...

In the following excerpts from the scriptures, pay close attention to the words: “born a Saviour” – “to this end” – “for this cause” – “to save” – “made to be” – “that he might” – “made for” ...

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world... (John 18:37)

... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8)

... in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:6)

... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. (John 12:47)

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: (1 Peter 3:18)

Jesus ... was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death ... that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. (Hebrews 2:9)
... for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

As we think of...

“the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12)...

...let us also think upon the “why” – the cause... for the suffering of death... for *our* sins, for the sins of the *whole world*, for *every man*... to save *the world*. And let it not be just his physical suffering and death that we think upon (terrible as that was). Let us also consider...

“...the travail of his soul” (Isaiah 53:11)

...and where this travail took place: as prophesied by David, let us consider the words of Jesus praying to the Father in heaven pertaining to the travail of his soul...

“...thou wilt not leave my soul in hell...” (Psalm 16:10)

And we read later that his soul was not left in hell, for...
“He was taken from prison ... (Isaiah 53:8)

Let us consider well the words of Jesus himself explicitly pertaining to “the travail of his soul” “in hell” “prison”...
as Jonas was

three days and three nights

in the whale’s belly;

so shall the Son of man be

three days and three nights

in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)

Three Days and Three Nights

Jesus was born for this reason (“to this end... for this cause...”) by the determinate counsel of God (Acts 2:23) – to be smitten; to suffer death; and to suffer also the travail of his soul in hell (prison); “for sins” ... “for our sins” ... and “for the sins of the whole world.”

When Jesus said “as Jonas was...so shall the Son of man be” – do we think of this as pertaining to the duration of *time* only (three days and three nights)? I wonder if

many people look in the book of Jonah and, finding the three days and three nights, stop there and look no farther...

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

What if we looked farther... to see the comparison more fully? What if we were to read the rest of the passage (Chapter 2) in the book of Jonah and this time pay very close attention to the words pertaining to "as Jonas was" ??? Let's do this, and take note of things that, well, maybe we had not paid attention to before ... things (words) that we may not have compared before with other things such as those in Psalm 16:10 and Acts 2:27-31 ("thou wilt not leave my soul in hell") ... words of Jonah prophesying of Jesus...

Jonah 1:17 ...And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah Chapter 2

- 1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,
- 2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of **the belly of hell** cried I, and thou heardest my voice.
- 3 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.
- 4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.
- 5 The waters compassed me about, even **to the soul**: the **depth** closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.
- 6 I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the **earth** with her **bars** was about me **for ever**: yet hast thou brought up my life from **corruption**, O LORD my God.
- 7 When **my soul fainted** within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.
- 8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.
- 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; **I will pay that that I have vowed**. Salvation is of the LORD.
- 10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

In a prior study night, we looked into this more fully, and we may revisit this again as future Christmastimes (or Eastertimes) approach each year... because it is **so** important to understand what Jesus was born **for** ... to understand what he suffered – how he suffered – where he suffered – for us, for our sins, and for the sins

of every person that will have ever lived. As Jonas was... During the course of the three days and three nights that Jesus' body rested in the tomb *in the temporal realm* here on earth, his soul was suffering travail *in the eternal realm* in hell – in prison. But unlike Jonah, Jesus was carrying our sins there: "into the deep... out of thy sight" to be left in hell. When Jesus had suffered what we deserve, to the satisfaction of the wrath of God the Father; when his soul ascended up out of hell (taken from prison), and his body arose from the tomb; he did *leave* something in hell – our sins; the sins of the whole world. Therefore, he can (and did – and does) say to all people everywhere...

... whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered. (Joel 2:32)

... whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

Joel precedes Romans, but the gospel is the same, so always remember this...

Romans 1:16 ... the gospel of Christ ... is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let us bear in mind why he was *born*, and what he has *done* for us...

Who **delivered us from so great a death**, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; (2 Corinthians 1:10)

Who hath **delivered us from the power of darkness**, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (Colossians 1:13)

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which **delivered us from the wrath to come**. (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

Science Snippet

In keeping with a "Christmas" theme for this newsletter, let us consider the "science" (the knowledge) of God. Regarding Jesus' birth and the "cause" for him to have to be born, let us put two familiar passages together...

Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: (Acts 2:23)

the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8)

A "science" word not in the bible, but related to foreknowledge, would be prescience (pre=before; science=knowledge). This would not refer to a time before there was science; but rather, to having science

beforehand – i.e., pre-existing science: for which God's word is ... you guessed it – foreknowledge.

(I wonder if this thought actually would belong in the "Critics' Corner" ... the thought of how wrong it would be to replace God's word "foreknowledge" with some man's preferred synonym "prescience" (?) which could lead people to think that God just had some general idea of what would actually occur (as we might think of the word "prescience"); as opposed to his foreknowledge being according to his determinate counsel.)

And, I ought to add this: that one modern per(sonal) version (the ESV) mutilates Revelation 13:8 – changing the wording to convert it to a Calvinistic claim. No, unless you have a need to point out the corruptions (2 Corinthians 2:17) / perversions (Jeremiah 23:36) therein, don't go get an ESV. I'll just show right here what it does:

Revelation 13:8

KJB: And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

ESV: and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

It should be no surprise therefore, to find that the ESV removes the book of life from Revelation 22:19, for in the view of the ESV's private interpreters, the names written in the book of life cannot be taken away from it. In God's view, however, all names have been written therein; and those who *reject* Jesus Christ's free gift of salvation provided "for every man" (Hebrews 2:9) have their names *blotted out* from it.

Anyway, getting back from that aside...

Because of God's foreknowledge of man's need for salvation, the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world by God's determinate counsel, ordained before the world began (John 17:5; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2).

Critics' Corner

Yet again keeping with a "Christmas" theme for this newsletter, isn't it interesting that in the stead of Jesus Christ, the world has substituted a false god (of sorts) called Santa, whose name is anagrammatic of ... Satan (move the "n" to the end: Santa → Sa~~n~~tan → Satan) who is Anti-Christ. Does Satan have a red face and

horns? Or might he have a red suit and a beard? Anyway, Christmas, to the world, in a very real sense, has become .. Anti-Christ-mas.

It is interesting to note that anagrams for Satan are a "thing." These include names of false gods such as Sanatan and Sanatsiyata, the Hindu sons of Brahman; and San-tisita (Satanists?... [with re-arranged letters: Satanisti]) of the Buddhists, shown holding a white lotus. So, it should be no surprise to find modern per(sonal) versions falsely called "Holy" bibles introducing the lotus to their new age generation of readers (Job 40:21-22):

KJB	ESV
the shady trees	the <u>lotus</u> plants
the shady trees	the <u>lotus</u> trees

Modern version aficionados (or even casual, infrequent users) beware of the subtlety of Satan's substitutes.

As an aside, new version "forefather" Westcott named his pet dog Mephistopheles. You can find that name in a Thesaurus, as a synonym for... Satan. Modern versions emanate from this un-holy man who was not of God. God used only holy men of God. (2 Peter 1:21)

A word with letters scrambled to hide its true meaning from the uninitiated (in cults) is referred to as a "blind" – as in the pulling down of window-blinds so that those outside can't see in.

In "New Age-ism" ...

- names are concealed anagrammatically as aliases used for occult purposes
- "Satan" is clearly meant by "blinds" such as Sanat, Sanatan, San-tisita and Sanatsiyata
- Sanat Kumara is being touted as "our God" by New Age leaders

With "Santa" being the great usurper of Christ's attention at Christmas, one might wonder if that anagram is an *intentional* "blind"?

Numbers

Do you believe God can make his word personal? To you? To us?

In the previous newsletter, we saw that names can have numbers associated with them (e.g., "the number of his name" – Revelation 13:17). In fact, without realizing it at the time, we took *literally* the words "count the number of" (Revelation 1:18) ... and counted the number of occurrences of the name Sara (not Sarai, or Sarah; but Sara = 4x, in the KJB). We also counted the

number of occurrences of the name Bethany (11x, in the KJB). We noted that the number 4 has a strong relationship to the sun, and to the Sun of righteousness (Jesus Christ). We also noted that the number 11 is related to “**understanding**.” Follow along with this...

In a study night earlier this year (2019) our very own Bethany (11) requested that we do a study sometime on “warnings in the bible.” As I was starting some preparatory notes for this study topic, I decided to look at the actual word “warn” and the various forms in which it occurs in the book of the LORD.

- I’m sure it’s pure coincidence (?) that the root word itself (“warn”) occurs exactly 11x in the KJB (remember who asked for this study)
- I’m also sure it’s pure coincidence (?) that in the Psalms, there is one and only one verse that has any form of the word whatsoever... and that it occurs in verse number... you guessed it ...11 (again, remember who asked)...

Psalms 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant **warned**: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

- So, as noted, I’m sure it’s pure coincidence (?) that it was Bethany (11) that requested this study.
- I’m also sure it’s pure coincidence (?) that in this very same Psalm, we find mention of the sun ... in what verse? You guessed it: Sara’s number - verse 4.

Psalm 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the **sun**,

That made me think to look for this...

Leviticus 26:11 ...I will set my tabernacle among you

- No doubt it is also coincidence that “them” to which the word “warned” in verse 11 refers to... includes “the fear of the LORD” – and that the fear of the LORD is related to wisdom and ... **understanding**, which is related to the number 11...

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good **understanding** have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

I could go on, but will save it for the study night, sometime early in the coming year (2020) hopefully.

Quote to Note

Back to a Christmas theme, I would like to repeat the first Christmas verse from above - Luke 2:11. But before copying it here as a quote to note, I would like to ... note ... that “every word of God is pure” and that there is a pure word in this verse that text critics like to

criticize (not only here but elsewhere as well, such as in “the Lord’s prayer”). That word is “which.” In “the Lord’s prayer” in Matthew 6:9 we read “Our Father which art in heaven...”

Q: Which Father is Jesus speaking of?

A: The one which is in heaven.

For this newsletter’s quote to note, let’s keep it pure, identifying “which” Saviour was born.

(And with this being in a verse whose number is 11, let us have understanding of what it truly means for Jesus to be “born...a Saviour” – i.e., “this end” – “this cause”):

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

Recipe Share

Once more, keeping with a Christmas theme...

Christmas Cauliflower

(No specific King James Bible tie-in this time)

Oh OK!!! If you *must* insist!!! The word “caul” and the word “flower” are both in the KJB: caul/cauls 13 times, and flower/flowers 37. Maybe we’ll study those two words sometime in the distant future?

Christmas Cauliflower

1 large head cauliflower, broken into florets

¼ cup diced green pepper

1 jar (7.3 ounce) sliced mushrooms, drained

¼ cup butter or margarine

⅓ cup all-purpose flour

2 cups milk

1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese

2 table-spoons diced pimentos

1 tea-spoon salt

Paprika, optional (no! don’t opt out!!)

In a large saucepan, cook cauliflower in a small amount of water for 6-7 minutes or until crisp-tender, drain well. In a medium saucepan, saute green peppers and mushrooms in butter for two minutes. Add flour, gradually stir in milk. Bring to a boil, then boil for two minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat, stir in cheese until melted. Add pimentos and salt. Place half the cauliflower in a greased 2-quart baking dish, top with half of the sauce. Repeat layers. Bake un-covered at 325° for for 25 minutes or until bubbly. Sprinkle with paprika if desired.

Yield: 8-10 servings

Wrap-up

Merry Christmas!