

August 12, 2012
"What Should We SEE in Christ's Birth?"
Luke 2:1-20

into our world – "And in the days of these kings the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. (Daniel 2:44 NKJ)

I. We see a different kind of KING and Kingdom, a different Godly way of thinking –

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJ)

1. Consider HOW God sent His Son into our world –

¹⁷ "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17 NKJ)

A. Not to condemn but to save

B. Not in a dramatic powerful way, but as a babe –

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7 NKJ)

C. Not in a showy known way, but humbly in a way most would not believe –

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. (Isaiah 53:1-2 NKJ)

2. Christ Himself points out this difference between His own Kingdom and the kingdoms of this world –

⁴² But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. ⁴⁴ "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mar 10:42-45 NKJ)

II. We see God bringing / sending His Son, setting up His KING, according to Divine prophecy and under the noses of Satan, ungodly men and powerful worldly governments –

1. So much Scripture talks about Christ and His Kingdom coming

2. In Daniel chapters 2 & 7 we see prophesied:

A. The Babylonian Empire ruled by Nebuchadnezzar -

Nebuchadnezzar is the head of fine gold – Daniel 2:31-32; 36-38 and the Lion with eagle's wings – Daniel 7:3-4

B. The Medo-Persian Empire ruled by Cyrus & Darius Daniel 7:5

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream they are the chest and arms are silver – Daniel 2:32-39 In Daniel's dream pictured as a bear, with three ribs in its mouth as it conquered three other kingdoms to become a world power: (1) Babylon (2) Egypt (3) Lydia

C. The Greek Empire ruled by Alexander the Great and his successors –

The belly and thighs of bronze – Daniel 2:32 & 39 / A leopard with four wings – Daniel 7:6

D. The Roman Empire, most notably, ruled by Caesar Augustus, and Roman derived governments – Legs and feet of iron and clay – Daniel 2:33; 40-44 / The strange beast – Daniel 7:7-8; 11-12; :19-26

E. The Eternal Kingdom of Christ –

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, Christ is the STONE which becomes a Great Mountain – Daniel 2:34-35 & 44-45 / In Daniel's dream He is "One like the Son of Man" and He is "coming with the clouds of Heaven!" He sets up an eternal Kingdom – Daniel 7:9-10; 13-18 & 27

3. In Psalm 2 these nations are prophesied as raging –

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision.⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a

potter's vessel."¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. (Psalm 2:1-12 NKJ)

4. *In Matthew 2 we see a sample of that RAGE –*

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. (Mat 2:16 NKJ)

5. *In Revelation 12 we are told about the source of that RAGE –*

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. (Revelation 12:1-5 NKJ)

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Revelation 12:9 NKJ)

6. *We also see in Revelation 12 that RAGE continues against God's people –*

¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev 12:17 NKJ)

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. (John 15:18 NKJ)

III. *We should see God sending His Son as Our Savior, on a rescue mission, a mission unstoppable –*

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, "Do not be

afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.¹¹ "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.¹² "And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:8-14 NKJ)

1. *Jesus came to bring LIGHT to darkness –*

Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles.² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1-2)

2. *Multiplied "great" joy!*

³ You have multiplied the nation *And* increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian.⁵ For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire. (Isaiah 9:1-5 NKJ)

3. *Peace, salvation and even an eternal righteous government –*

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJ)

IV. *We should know this great news and make it known –*

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.¹⁷ Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.¹⁸ And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. (Luke 2:15-20 NKJ)

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