



Come & See What God Has Done

We Wait With Great Anticipation – Christmas Eve

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve is one many of us will remember as a day filled with great anticipation. As children, we could barely contain our excitement of waiting until Christmas morning to open the presents under the tree. In my memory, there are more than a few sleepless Christmas Eve's. On the Eve of Christmas, we find ourselves in the unique condition of knowing Jesus was to be born on Christmas Day. Yet, in our celebration of Advent, we find ourselves looking forward with the same anticipation as the prophets of old. We know, but we still look forward in faith to fulfilling the promise of a Savior. What has fascinated me is the timing of the arrival of the Messiah. Galatians 4:4-7 shares a reasonable explanation regarding the timing of His arrival. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.





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We can look back upon the events at that time in history and glean some insight. The oppression of God's people and a culture surrounding His chosen people of decadence and depravity. But then again, that had been the case for many years. God's people were being ruled by Pharisees, Sadducees, and teachers of the Law who were making a living on the misery of His people. Man's rules were thought to be the means to the end for salvation. These leaders had forgotten the words from Hosea 6:4-6, What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. How quickly the true intentions of the Lord were forgotten. But has anything changed in modern times?

We need that Messiah as much as they did in Old Testament times. We are living in a broken and sinful world. We are, despite our best efforts, unable to achieve salvation. So, a loving God gave His only son for our salvation. Jesus, the reason for the season, came to earth as an infant born of a virgin, as prophesied. We can see what the Lord has done for you and me in the form of that blessed birth. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, let us look back in thanksgiving for His gift. It truly is a gift beyond comparison.

Leaning on Jesus
Forest Holmes

Note from the author: Pam (editor), and I hope you have been blessed this Advent season with our devotionals. Our prayers for you are for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May the Lord bless you and keep you.