

# HE CAME As Promised

**Galatians 4:1-7**

Genesis 3:1-15

Isaiah 9:1-7



1 December 2024

## Goals for 2024

- Have we seen God?
- Have we seen wondrous things in God's Law?
  - Have you been in His Law to see those **wondrous** things.
  - Have you been a serious student of His Word, or was your life too busy to be a serious disciple of God's Word?
- Are we really FILLED with AWE of God?
- Do we fear God?
- Has our **relationship** with God grown?
- Do we really give Him the worship and glory due His name?

## GOD - Do you know Him?

- There are many gods in the world. There are many gods in churches. There are many Jesus's in the world.
- (Genesis 1:1) "In the beginning GOD . . ."
  - God is ETERNAL and inhabits ETERNITY (Isaiah 57:15; 40:28; Psalm 90:2; 93:2; 102:24-27; 1 Timothy 1:17)
- How big is your god?
  - Is He ALMIGHTY? What do you mean? (Jeremiah 32:17, 32)
  - Is He ALL-KNOWING? What do you mean? (Psa 139:1-4; 1 Kings 8:39)
  - Is He OMNIPRESENT? What do you mean? (Jer 23:24; 1 Kings 8:27)
  - Is He ALL-SEEING? What do you mean? (Proverbs 15:3; 5:21; Heb 4:13)
  - Is He SOVEREIGN? What do you mean? (Psalm 115:3; 135:6)
  - Is He AWESOME/TERRIBLE? What do you mean? (Psalm 47:2)
- **Do you tremble at your god/God?** (Psalm 99:1-3; Isaiah 66:2, 5; Philip 2:12)
- **Do you fear your god/God?** (Deuteronomy 10:12-14; Psalm 34:9; 128:1; Acts 9:31; 1 Peter 1:17; Romans 3:18; Psalm 36:1; )

## Christmas vs. Feast of Tabernacles

- Christmas: A man made holiday, established by an reprobate "church", accepted by the "Christian" world celebrating the birth of Christ.
  - Beginning: Adopted from pagan holidays/celebrations in their celebrations of the winter solstice. . .

- For example, Germans honored the pagan god Oden. Oden came at night to observe his people and decide who would be prosperous or perish.
- In Rome, they honored the god of agriculture - Saturn and celebrate Juvenalia, a feast honoring the children of Rome. The upper class celebrated the birthday of Mithra, the god of the unconquerable sun, on December 25.
- It is believed that the Roman Catholic Church adopted the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to replace these pagan holidays. Eastern churches celebrate on 7 January.
- GOD's Feast: The Feast of Tabernacles - GOD WITH US!
  - Evidence shows that Christ was more than likely born on the Feast of Tabernacles (September/October) rather than in December.
  - Zacharias' time in the Temple. (1 Chronicles 24:10; Luke 1:5-8)
    - "eighth course of Abijah"
  - "in the sixth month" - Luke 1:26 - then we add 9 months.
  - (Matthew 1:21-23) Christ's coming fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 where it declared that the Messiah would be called "IMMANUEL" which is translated "God with us."
  - (John 1:14) "And the Word (GOD) dwelt (*literally, 'tabernacled'*) with us!"
- What is Advent? - Advent is a four week time of, originally, for "preparing" oneself for the second coming of Christ by remembering the first coming (advent)..
  - ✗ No where in the Bible are we commanded to "remember" or make a feast for Christ's first coming.
  - ✓ RATHER we are told over and over again to be looking for His second coming. (Luke 12:35-43; 2 Timothy 4:7-8; 1 John 3:2-3; 2 Peter 3:14; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 1:7)
  - ✗ MANY follow the traditions of man rather than the teaching of God.
  - ✗ Look how much the "true meaning" of Christmas has been corrupted.
  - ✗ Many sing "Joy to the World" and "Hark the Herald Angel Sings" and have no idea what they are singing!!

## God's Eternal Purpose

- God's will, plan, purpose. God, the Creator, planned His Creation from start to finish!
  - "In the beginning God created . . ." Genesis 1:1. And at the *moment* God created ALL TIME - ALL HISTORY - EVERYTHING that would ever happen!!!! Down to the smallest detail!! (Hebrews 1:2)
  - (Revelation 21:1-6) "It is done!"
- (Ephesians 3:9-11) God's will was that **He would accomplish** His will through/by Christ Jesus our Lord, His Son.

- “I will put enmity . . .” (Genesis 3:15) - 4,000 years before He sent the “Promised One”.
- Seven hundred years before Him sending the Christ Isaiah prophesied, “The LORD Himself will give you a sign . . .” (Isaiah 7:14)
- “The zeal of the LORD will perform this!” (Isaiah 9:7)
- “God so loved the world that **HE GAVE His Son.**” (John 3:16)

## Prophecy = Promises

- Prophecies are God’s **appointments** on His calendar.
- Prophecies are God sharing His plans for His creation.
- Over 300 prophecies of His first coming in the Old Testament.
- Just pick eight!
  - ① Born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2; Matt 2:1, 4-8)
  - ② Preceded by a messenger. (Isaiah 40:3; Mal 3:1; Matt 3:1-2; 3:2; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17)
  - ③ Enter Jerusalem on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35-37; Matthew 21:6-11)
  - ④ Betrayed by a friend. (Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14; Matt 10:4; 26:49, 50; John 13:21)
  - ⑤ Sold for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12; Matt 26:15; 27:3)
  - ⑥ Money thrown in God’s house and given for a potter’s field. (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:5, 7)
  - ⑦ Dumb before Accusers. (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-19)
  - ⑧ Crucified and with thieves. (Psalm 22:16; Zechariah 12:10; Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:33; John 20:25; Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27, 28)
- What are the odds that ONE MAN could fulfill these prophecies?

**1 in 10<sup>17</sup>**

- ALL of God’s promises are YES in Christ. (2 Corinthians 1:20)

## In the Fulness of Time (Galatians 4:4)

- (Genesis 1:1) “In the beginning . . .”
  - TIME began when GOD created the heavens, earth, and time.
  - Time, Space, and Matter came into existence spontaneously/ instantaneously out of NOTHING. (**Jeremiah 32:17, 27**)
- (Hebrews 1:2) God created ALL TIME - ALL HISTORY.
  - ★ “world(s)” - *aions* - “times”; “ages” - 102 times in NT.
    - “forever” - Matthew 6:13; Romans 16:17; Galatians 1:4. . .
    - Acts 15:18; Ephesians 2:2; Ephesians 3:9; . . .
- History is God’s “determined purpose and foreknowledge” (Acts 2:23; 4:28)
- ALL time is God’s calendar.
- God and God alone can “declare the end from the beginning” because He determined BOTH in eternity! (Isaiah 46:9-11) Christ is the beginning and the

- end - the Alpha and the Omega - Revelation 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13.
- God and God alone can tell things that will happen before they happen because He planned them! (Isaiah 37:26; 41:22-23; 44:7; 45:21; Ephesians 1:11; the whole book of Revelation)
- Scripture of truth - Daniel 10:21

### **God Planned; God Does** (Isaiah 46:10)

- ★ Acts 3:18; 13:27; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 14:24-27; 46:9-11; Matthew 26:24; Luke 22:37; 24:44-46; John 19:31-37; 1 Peter 1:20; Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Proverbs 19:21; 21:30; Ephesians 1:9-11
- (1 Kings 13:1-3) God determined the life of King Josiah 300 years before he was born!
- (Isaiah 13) God determined the rise and fall of the Empire of Babylon before the Empire existed! (Habakkuk 1)
- (Daniel 2) God determined the rise and fall of the Medes-Persian, Greek, and Roman Empires before they existed!
- (Isaiah 37:1-27) God determine the failure of King Sennacherib to take Jerusalem before his army arrived at Jerusalem.
- (Isaiah 44:28) God determined the life of King Cyrus the Great over 100 years before he was born.
- (Daniel 9:24-27) God DETERMINED these 70 weeks at least a century before they began to come true!
- (Ezekiel 36-39) God DETERMINE the battle of Gog and Magog centuries before it is to happen!
- (Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28) God DETERMINE the Cross BEFORE the foundation of the world. (Isaiah 53:10 - God crucified His Son!)
- (Lamentations 3:37-38) The MOST HIGH commands (not permits) all things to happen in order to fulfill His eternal plan for His creation. (Isaiah 45:7)
- (Matthew 10:29-30; Daniel 4:35) God controls the great and the minute!
- (Psalm 139:16) Our own lives. (Psalm 139:16; James 4:13-16)
- (Hebrews 6:17-18) - God keeps His promises! (Isaiah 46:9-11; 14:24-27)

### **To Him . . .** (Romans 11:33-36)

- ALL THINGS are **of** Him and **through** Him and **to** Him!
- (Isaiah 48:9-11) FOR HIS OWN SAKE . . .
- Will **God** get the honor due His name this Christmas?
- Will we be filled with AWE of God's planning, ordering all history, and keeping His promises?
- Will we be overwhelmed that the God of the universe moved all history to save His special people?
- What will we teach our children about Christmas? Will God be in our teaching?
- Who are we WATCHING and WAITING for in THIS Advent season?