



## Christmas-es to Come

I remember the first time I heard what the word Christmas really meant. I was a full-grown adult who had been involved in church all my life. I knew the spiritual side of the holiday - that we were “celebrating” the birth of Jesus; however, I did not know that Christ-mas really meant “celebration of the Anointed One,” or “celebration of the coming of the Anointed One.” I got excited! Think of it. This entire time people have been talking about the celebration of the Anointed One without even knowing it.

As I was pondering this while listening to my husband preach during a Wednesday night service (Yes, there are churches that still have mid-week services!), I heard the most wonderful voice sound in my heart, “this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” The voice was familiar and the scripture was familiar. The angels said this to the disciples after Jesus’ ascension, written in Acts 1:11. Immediately I knew that this Christmas would be different; this Christmas was a wake-up call. The Holy Spirit was challenging us to look for our Lord’s soon appearing.

In the familiar scriptures found in Luke chapter two, attention is given to two specific individuals that almost get lost in the excitement of the birth announcement. These two individuals are Simeon and Anna. In verse 25, the Lord lets us in on a secret – there are people who are actually looking for the Messiah’s coming. They are waiting, looking, praying for the coming of the one whose coming had been foretold. The Holy Spirit had an extraordinary relationship with Simeon. Remember that the Holy Spirit had not been given to believers until after Jesus’ resurrection. The Holy Spirit, during that dispensation of time, is only recorded to have come upon a select few: prophet, priest, king, and others only as God purposed for a specific, great task. There is nothing that would identify Simeon as a prophet, priest, or king. The Word also never tells us that Simeon had a great God-given task to perform like Gideon.

This man, however, had a distinct place in the heart and mind of God. Why? Because Simeon was looking for the Anointed One! Not only was he looking for Him, he was waiting for Him. Simeon was privileged to receive the desire of his heart; the Holy Spirit told him he would see the Lord’s Christ before he died. He was so close to the Holy Spirit, that he heard the Spirit direct him to the temple at the right time. He saw Jesus, the Christ, and received a prophetic word to utter to those at the temple, as well as Mary and Joseph.

The other individual came into the temple at that time and was blessed to hear the declaration of the Christ’s coming. Her name was Anna. It is not recorded that Anna was looking for His coming; however, we can make that assumption because it declares that she “spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” How did she know who they were unless they got together and talked about His coming? You know the old saying, “birds of a feather flock together.” I have an idea that this group of people came together and encouraged each other as the years grew long and the fulfillment of the prophecy of Jesus’ coming was delayed.

Here is the question God has for you today: do you look for His appearing? Are you just and devout, waiting for His appearing? Christmas is not just the celebration of Jesus coming to earth as a babe; it is a celebration of the coming of Jesus, the Anointed One. He came as a babe, He will come for the church as her Savior, and He will come at the end as earth’s conquering King. He truly is the “Alpha and Omega . . . which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev. 1:8)

The writer of Hebrews declares in chapter 9 verse 28, “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.” So, the question remains: Are you looking for Him? Are you eagerly, constantly, and patiently waiting for and expecting Him? Do you “flock together” with others who are looking for Him? Do you talk among yourselves about His soon return and encourage each other when it seems He has delayed His coming?

In Matthew 25:1-13 we find the story of the ten virgins, five wise and five foolish. Five prepared to wait as long as necessary and made provision for the wait. Five did not. A cry was made, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” All ten went: five to go welcome the bridegroom – five to go find provisions necessary to go welcome him. Five went in unto the marriage – five were shut out. Jesus is the one who told this parable and I do not think He was just telling a story to be telling a story. We have many in our churches who have become weary and sleepy; they have forgotten why we are waiting and looking. We are waiting for Him! He is coming! In Revelations 22:7 and 20, Jesus tells us Himself that He is coming quickly. Maybe we ought to be listening!

Of all the New Year’s resolutions that could be made, I believe that this is the most important one: resolve to celebrate the coming of Christ every day. If the men and women of old could stay true and continue to look for His coming, how much more should we be able to wait and look for Him through the power and help of the Holy Spirit? Go ahead! Make the decision this Christmas to find a group of people that will join you in celebrating His coming, not just as a babe, but as our soon coming King. ***Then, rejoice for our King cometh!***

### Update:

The year is now 2022, eighteen (18) years since the writing of this article. My, doesn’t time seem to fly? Today, more than ever, I am quickened to declare and announce that “Jesus is coming soon!” That is correct – the message hasn’t changed!

When I was growing up as a young girl, we used to sing a song that declared: “It may be morn; it may be night or noon. We know He’s coming soon.” He may come immediately following the reading of this article; He may come next week – next month – next year – you get the picture. What we do know for sure, without a shadow of a doubt, He is coming!

I wonder, if Jesus came today, if He would find the same situations that occurred on His first coming so many years ago? Would He find:

- 1) Wise, or intellectual, men and women so attuned to the signs of His coming that they recognize the time and the season.
- 2) Shepherds or workers willing to listen to a host of angels announcing the coming of the Christ – or a shout, the voice of the archangel, or the trump of God.
- 3) Those who have been looking and waiting for His coming; those who the Holy Ghost is upon; those to whom the Holy Ghost has revealed that they will not see death before His catching away; or those who have “served” with “fastings and prayers night and day,” looking for the Lord’s return.



# The Infilling Word

In 2019, the Spirit of God gave me a message for the Church. That message has been evermore in my mind and on my heart. What was that message? Of course – Jesus is coming!

Now, I am not a genius, but I am smart enough to know that “somethin’s up!” I can read the signs; can’t you? Being a small-town, West Texas girl, I learned to identify weather situations by the “wind” – or lack thereof. I could tell hail was coming by the “green tint” of the clouds. I could tell that spring had arrived by the “smell” of the screen-wire of our back door. I learned to know that it was 30 minutes before the sun went down just by the song of the birds. I learned that there was a certain type of “moisture and cool” in the air when it was time to kill hogs. And, I learned to be alert when there was a something “special” in the “air” – that something was about to happen that was unexpected or unusual.

Jesus spoke of this type of knowing to the Pharisees and Sadducees in Matthew 16:2-3. Basically He said, “You know how to read the weather; great. But, you are supposed to be the spiritual leaders of the people and you cannot even read the signs of the times. You won’t be getting any other sign than what you’ve already been given.”

Let me tell you something. We have been given plenty of signs!

One more personal story may be needed here. My parents and I backpacked to Rainbow Bridge National Park in Utah. The Park Service gave us a list of “trail signs and landmarks” to follow because the trail was not a clearly marked trail. Unfortunately, several of the signs had been removed or destroyed and the landmarks were not listed in the correct order. Because of this, we ended up making it back to our check point by a very few minutes. Missing our check out time would have resulted in the initiation of a full-out rescue operation – at our expense. It would have been costly.

What does this have to do with anything? I just want you to know that God has given us plenty of signs and landmarks to look for and note. One can find them in many books of the Bible. He also sent His Holy Spirit, who continues to declare through anointed men and women of God the times, the seasons, and the nearness of the Lord’s coming. The trail is clearly marked. The landmarks are in the correct order. God has not set this up for us to miss making our “check-out time” nor to only make it by a very “few minutes.” No, He has given us plenty of signs, landmarks, and time to be ready and prepared to leave. ***If we are “eagerly, constantly, and patiently waiting for and expecting Him!”***

To miss this departure would be costly! If we are eagerly, constantly, and patiently waiting for and expecting Him, then we are “looking” for Him and are alert to the slightest change in the “atmosphere.” Our spiritual “senses” should be on high alert; and, we should be so full of anticipation that it is difficult to keep from shouting ourselves. Celebrate? You better believe it!

***Christmas?*** Absolutely! I intend to celebrate the coming of the Anointed One – both the first time and His next – because I have a feeling that it won’t be long. I invite you to join me in celebrating, too. I leave you with these words:

*He which testifieth these things saith,  
Surely I come quickly.  
Amen. (So let it be.)  
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.  
Revelation 22:20*

## Reigning with Christ: The Seventh “R” of the New Covenant

*For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;  
much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness  
shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.  
Romans 5:17*

The subject of today, Reigning with Christ, is so big that it would take an entire book to even begin to approach the reality of it. I am so sure about the reality of reigning with Christ that I am shocked to realize how little I actually have been able to put into action in my own life. What a challenge!

As I partake of communion, I am reminded of a truth that has been laid out so clear for us: Jesus has made us able to be partakers of His divine nature. The Lord, by His death, burial, and subsequent resurrection, has made it possible for us to be transformed into a “son” of God – one that has the divine nature in common with Himself. The Father, Himself, has raised us up together with Christ to sit together with Him in heavenly places – at the right hand of the Father in His throne – not in the sweet by and by, but right now are we seated with Jesus as sons. (Ephesians 2:4-10; Colossians 3:1; 1 John 3:1-2)

Forgive me; I am getting a little ahead of myself. Being in a position to rule and reign began at the beginning. Check out Genesis 1:26-28. God gave mankind the honor of having dominion – to rule over or exercise control over a specific domain. That dominion was over the fish, the fowl, cattle, every creeping thing upon the earth, and over all the earth – in other words, the land. We were to work with God to create order and cause His creation to flourish – to be magnificent! But Satan . . . .

When the devil showed up, mankind gave his dominion away. Why? Because he didn’t know and recognize that he had dominion. He was persuaded by Satan that God was withholding “power and control” from him. In reality, the spiritual domain was the only domain mankind didn’t have authority over. Mankind was not given dominion over spiritual beings: God Himself, angelic (or celestial) beings, or other mankind. That’s right – mankind is a spiritual being. Satan and his forces are angelic beings and as such were not under the authority of mankind at that time. However, Jesus changed all that! (But that is a topic for another time!)

In Heb 2:6-10, the Word tells us that Jesus brought all of the “sons” of God unto glory with all things being put under our feet – because all things are under His feet. Don’t get fooled by the statement “a little lower than the angels”. Go back to the original statement in Psalms 8:5 and you will find that the word translated “angels” is really the word that is otherwise translated “gods”. Almighty God made mankind in the god-class – not the angelic class, not the animal class. He made mankind “another speaking spirit.” That’s right! We are a spirit, we have a mind, and we live in an earthly body. But, one of these days . . . .

When Jesus defeated Satan in the depths of hell and came victorious out of the kingdom of darkness, He won the victory for all of us as well. We are “in Him” and have received a position of being a joint-heir with Him of all things if we have accepted Him as our Savior and our Lord. By the Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15) we now have the absolutely awesome privilege of ruling and reigning with Christ. We are a “joint-heir” with Him of “all things”. Just check out Hebrews 1:2, ***“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”***

If Jesus is the heir of all things and we are joint-heirs with Him, then we are also heirs of all things. The only limitation that must be acknowledged and adhered to is that the dominion or rule is in and with Jesus who is our Lord. We cannot do anything without or separate from Him. The same rules apply to us as those that applied to Jesus when He walked on earth. He didn’t say anything He didn’t hear the Father say and He didn’t do anything He didn’t see the Father do. We also, ruling and reigning with Him, must follow those same guidelines. We rule and reign with Him, not separate and apart from Him!

As I said to begin with, it would take a whole book to just touch on this subject; it is so vast. Not having the space to write a whole book, I have simply included a few scriptures to underline the place and authority Jesus made for us in the Kingdom. When Jesus gave His life for us, He did so with the earnest expectation of our joining Him in authority and power. Jesus had faith for our experience of living in that authority and power with Him today! It was the “joy” that was set before Him!!!!

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# The Infilling Word

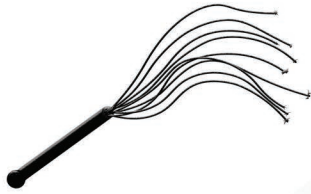
Yes, the “seventh R” of the covenant would seem to be out of place, lying before the “sixth R”; but, its strength extends from the “fifth R” of reinstatement through till the end – the “sixth R” of Resurrection! (Ooooooh, I want to start preaching right now about “Resurrection;” but, we will have to save that until next time.)

Due to space, I have just included a listing of scriptures references – not the actual verses. I encourage you to read “all around” the verses I have noted. You won’t be disappointed as you read more about our position of Reigning with Christ.

Until next time when we “visit” our last “R” of the covenant, Resurrection –

Be abundantly blessed!!

**Supporting Scriptures:** 2 Peter 1:3-4; Romans 8:14-17; Matthew 16:19, 18:19-20; 1 John 4:17; Heb 1:2, 2:6-10; Eph 2:4-10, 1:3-23; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 5:8-10



## Counting the Cost



A very wise man, our Lord Jesus, gave a very important instruction to us in Luke 14:28-30. He told us that it was important to count the cost of a project before we began. He said it was imperative to assess our resources to see if we had sufficient to start lest we begin the project and fail. If we failed, others would mock us; and, not only would we not have success but we would also have to deal with the voice of condemnation –others’ voices as well as our own.

I use to think that Jesus was telling us that if we didn’t have everything we needed to begin the project, not to do it. However, that is not the case. For instance, if I am going to bake a cake from “scratch,” I need to see if I have all the ingredients. If I do not have the amount of milk that I need, after assessing the situation, I can go to the store and get more milk. I don’t just give up on the idea of having a cake; I merely double-check my situation and go out to get the supplies that I need to complete the project.

When we contemplate the possibility of having divine healing and health manifested in our bodies, we need to assess our resources. Healing and health come from God only through the avenue of faith; however, faith is only one resource that you need to receive healing and health from God. You also need the Word of God, perseverance, determination, commitment, obedience, willingness, love . . . and the list goes on. It is essential to understand that just believing God and His Word at the moment of hearing the Word is not usually enough. It is rarely enough to receive healing for your body; it is never enough to receive and walk in divine health.

The Word of God is full of instruction and guidance regarding believing, receiving, and having the promises of God fulfilled in our lives. It is our responsibility to get in the Word and seek out the Lord’s commandments. Then, we must do them. Jesus instructed us that faith was necessary to healing. We know, by the Word, that we must have hope for something before we can have faith for it. To have hope, we must know that there is a promise of God for that which we “hope.” To have hope, we must have experienced earnestly expecting something and then receiving it. To have experience, we must have patience or endurance.

It is by faith and patience that we inherit the promises; so patience, or endurance, is essential to obtaining health. To have patience, we must have gone through some hard times. That’s right, if you are going to believe God and receive His promises in your life, you are going to go through some stuff. Jesus told us we would; however, “troubles” do not have to keep us from inheriting the promises. We just need to endure until the manifestation comes. Tribulation, troubles, persecutions, -- “stuff” – will come our way, but God has given us everything we need to overcome all and “have” what we desire. This hope that we have causes us to not be ashamed (or condemned) because “the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.” **And, faith works by love.** (Rom 5:3-5; Heb 6:11; Gal 5:6)

Counting the cost for obtaining healing and divine health is not a negative thing; it is a positive thing. Check out your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you how your “resources” stand. Have you heard the words of Jesus regarding healing and wholeness? Have you received the covenant promises of God regarding health issues? Have you meditated on those scriptures? Have you believed them; has faith risen in your heart? Do you have earnest expectation of healing and wholeness? Are you obeying God’s commandments? Have you determined in your heart that nothing but healing and health will satisfy you? Are you willing to make commitments of your time and resources?

Only you can count the cost. Only you can decide to “go for the gold” of healing and health. Only you can receive and have your own healing and health. I encourage you today to – count the cost and then count it all joy -- **go for it!**

# Merry Christmas

## Celebrating Our Saviors Birth

