

Jesus

“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” - Genesis 3:15

These prophetic words spoken 4000 years before Advent portend the way of salvation for all of mankind. Foreknowing that His beloved creation would turn its back on Him—forever separating mankind from Him—God provided a way for penitent souls to become eternally reconciled to Him. That way is through Jesus.

The conception of Jesus was not ordinary, causing Joseph much concern as he and Mary were not yet married. Not wanting to disobey the law and not wanting to make a public spectacle of Mary, Joseph thought of privately ending his engagement to her when *“...the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost”* (Matthew 1:20). Hence, rather than strive to follow the law, Joseph listened to the leading of God (which is an important message in itself for each of us today).

The only reason Jesus came into this world was to *“...save his people from their sins”* (Matthew 1:21), and because everyone sins, Jesus’ birth can bring great joy to all people who *“hunger and thirst after righteousness”* (Matthew 5:6). The shepherds displayed this joy by *“...glorifying and praising God...”* (Luke 2:20) but only after God had opened their understanding about the spiritual meaning of the birth of Jesus and had shown the babe unto them. Today, unless God opens our understanding about salvation and spiritually shows Jesus to our heart, thus awakening us to our sin, we will never have a chance to come unto this unspeakable joy much less be able to *“...Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee”* (Mark 5:19). Without God’s intervention, which is something we must earnestly pray for, we will remain unsaved.

And salvation comes through the blood of Jesus. During Old Testament times, if anyone sinned through ignorance *“...while he doeth somewhat against any of the*

commandments of the Lord” (Leviticus 4:27) and, by the grace of God became aware of that sin, that person would then *“...confess that he hath sinned in that thing”* (Leviticus 5:5). This confession was voluntarily made before a priest who then sprinkled the blood of a sacrificial animal to *“...make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him”* (Leviticus 5:10). Today, anyone who becomes awoken to sin can, in like manner, confess the particular sin that troubles him to a believer who is of *“...a royal priesthood”* (1 Peter 2:9). Then, if God grants the confessor the faith to believe that he is forgiven through the word of reconciliation declared to him, he then becomes the *“...elect”* of God *“...through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 1:2).

Because of Jesus each of us can believe all of our past sins forgiven by God if we willingly repent and believe the gospel: for God sent Jesus to this earth *“to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past”* (Romans 3:25). This Christmas season has much to be joyful about.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen

Dec 1	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Dec 8	Nathan Ruonavaara	
Dec 15	Ken Storm	Christmas Program/meal following
Dec 22	Chuck Korhonen	
Dec 24	Ken Storm	7pm
Dec 29	Herb Jarvi	

Church Cleaning: Lampinens, Joh Lehtinen
 Sunday School/Adult Bible Study: 10am, Worship at 11am
 Wednesday: Bible Study 7pm

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