



## **Bible Teaching Resources**

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# **A GIFT Too Wonderful for Words**

## **“Christmas: When God Came Downstairs with a Baby in His Arms”**

### **STUDY NUMBER ONE – TRACING THE SEED – (VARIOUS PASSAGES)    NOTES**

#### **1.      Genesis 3:15**

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

#### **2.      Genesis 12:1-3**

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you; and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

#### **3.      Genesis 17:19**

But God said, “No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.”

#### **4.      Genesis 28:14, 15**

“Your descendants shall also be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

**5. Genesis 49:10**

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes.

**6. Numbers 24:17**

I see Him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel.

**7. 2 Samuel 7:8-16**

“Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be ruler over My people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly, even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.”’”

**8. Psalm 16:10**

For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol;  
Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to see the pit.

**9. Psalm 22:1, 14-18**

My God, my God, why hast Thou forsake me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and Thou dost lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**10. Isaiah 7:13-14**

Then he said, Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

**11. Isaiah 9:6-7**

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

**12. Isaiah 11:1**

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

**13. Isaiah 40:1-3**

“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; and call out to her, that her warfare has ended, that her iniquity has been removed, that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.” A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”

**14. Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

“Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up, and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, so His appearance was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men. Thus He will sprinkle many nations, kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand. Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him. Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening

for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away, and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death; although He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in his hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.”

**15. Jeremiah 23:5-6**

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord, “When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as King and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’”

**16. Daniel 9:25-26**

“So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.”

**17. Micah 5:2**

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

**18. Zechariah 9:9**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**19. Zechariah 12:10**

“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.”

**20. Malachi 3:1-2**

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.”

**21. Matthew 1:1, 23**

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

**22. Matthew 2:1-6**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him.” And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. And they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, ‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel.’”

**23. Daniel 7:13-14**

“I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations,

and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

**24. Zechariah 14:4-9**

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. And you will flee by the valley of My mountains, for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord, My God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! And it will come about in that day that there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night; but it will come about that at evening time there will be light. And it will come about in that day that living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. And the Lord will be King over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

**25. Psalm 118: 22-24**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**26. Revelation 22:1-7**

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bondservants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bondservants the things which must shortly take place. "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

**NOTES****27. Revelation 22:14**

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

**28. Titus 3:5**

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

**29. Isaiah 1:18**

“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.”

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**


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**STUDY NUMBER TWO – CHRIST IN THE PROPHETS – (VARIOUS PASSAGES)****NOTES****Isaiah 7:14; 9:6, 7**

7:v. 14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

9:v. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

9:v. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

**Jeremiah 23:5, 6**

23:v. 5 “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

**NOTES**

23:v. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness.”

**Micah 5:2**

5:v. 2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

**Zechariah 9:9; 12:10**

9:v. 9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

12:v. 10 “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**


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**STUDY NUMBER THREE – THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST – LUKE 1:5-80****NOTES****I. Introduction of the Parents — verses 5-7**

v. 5 There was in the days of Herod, King of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

v. 6 And they were both righteous in the sight of God, ordering their lives blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

v. 7 And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both had gone far in their days.

**II. Gabriel Visits Zacharias — verses 8-23**

v. 8 Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,

v. 9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot when he entered into the temple of the Lord to burn incense.

v. 10 And all the multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of the burning of the incense.

v. 11 Now there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

v. 12 And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

v. 13 But the angel said to him, "Stop fearing Zacharias, because your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

v. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will be rejoicing at his birth.

v. 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

v. 16 And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.

v. 17 And he will go before his face in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; to prepare for the Lord a people having been made ready."

v. 18 And Zacharias said to the angel: "Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man and my wife has advanced in her days."

v. 19 And the angel answering said to him: "I am Gabriel, the one who stands before God; and I was sent to speak to you and to bring to you this good news.

v. 20 And behold you shall be silent and not able to speak until the day these things come to be, because you believed not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season."

v. 21 And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they marvelled while he tarried in the temple.

v. 22 But when he came out, he was not able to speak to them; and they knew that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he continued beckoning them (making signs), and he remained dumb.

v. 23 And it came to be when the days of his ministry were fulfilled, he went to his house.

### **III. Elizabeth Is Pregnant — verses 24-25**

v. 24 Now after these days, Elizabeth his wife conceived and hid herself five months, saying,

v. 25 "For in this way the Lord has dealt with me in days wherein He looked upon [me] to take away my reproach among men."

### **IV. Gabriel Visits Mary — verses 26-38**

v. 26 Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, the name Nazareth,

v. 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the name of the virgin, Mary.

v. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail! You who have been endued with grace, the Lord is with you."

v. 29 Now she was greatly troubled at the saying and was considering of what sort a greeting this might be.

v. 30 And the angel said to her, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found grace with God.

v. 31 And behold you will conceive in your womb, and you will bring forth a son, and you will call His name Jesus.

v. 32 This one shall be great and He shall be called Son of [the] Most High; and the Lord God shall give to Him the throne of His father David.

v. 33 And He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and to his kingdom there shall be no end."

v. 34 But Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be since I am not knowing a man?"

v. 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you; wherefore also the one begotten shall be called holy, the Son of God.

v. 36 And behold, Elizabeth your kinswoman she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month to her, the one called barren.

v. 37 For no word from God shall be impossible."

v. 38 Now Mary said, "Behold, the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

#### **V. Mary Visits Elizabeth — verses 39-56**

v. 39 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste to a city of Judah.

v. 40 And she went into the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

v. 41 And it came to be when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

v. 42 And she lifted up her voice with a loud cry and said: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

v. 43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

v. 44 For behold, when the voice of your greeting came into my ears, the baby in my womb leaped in exultation.

v. 45 And blessed is she who believed, for it shall be completed, the things having been spoken to her by the Lord."

v. 46 And Mary said: "My soul is magnifying the Lord.

v. 47 And my spirit rejoiced in God my Savior.

v. 48 For He looked upon the low estate of His handmaid; for behold, from now all generations shall call me blessed.

v. 49 For the Mighty One did great things for me, and holy is His name.

v. 50 And His mercy is from generation to generation to the ones fearing Him.

v. 51 He showed strength in His arm. He scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

v. 52 He tore down princes from their thrones and exalted them of low estate.

v. 53 The hungry ones He filled with good, and the rich ones He sent away empty.

v. 54 And He helped Israel His servant, that He might remember mercy,

v. 55 even as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever."

v. 56 And Mary remained with her about three months and returned unto her house.

**VI. The Birth of John — verses 57-80**

v. 57 Now Elizabeth's time was fulfilled to be delivered, and she brought forth a son.

v. 58 And her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord magnified His mercy towards her, and they were rejoicing with her.

v. 59 And it came to be on the eighth day, they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him by the name of his father, Zacharias.

v. 60 And his mother answered and said: "No indeed, but he shall be called John."

v. 61 And they said to her, "There is none of your relatives called by this name."

v. 62 And they were making signs to his father, as to what he might desire him to be called.

v. 63 And he asked for a writing tablet, and he wrote, saying, "John is his name"; and they all marvelled.

v. 64 And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he was speaking, blessing God.

v. 65 And fear came upon all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.

v. 66 And all who heard them laid them up in their heart, saying: "What then shall this child be? For indeed the hand of the Lord is with him."

v. 67 And Zacharias his father was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying;

v. 68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and made redemption for His people,

v. 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant—

v. 70 Even as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—

v. 71 Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all who are hating us;

v. 72 To show mercy toward our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant,

v. 73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

v. 74 To give to us that we being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear,

v. 75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

v. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways:

v. 77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,

v. 78 Because of the heart of mercy of our God, in that the Sun rising from on high shall visit us,

v. 79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace."

v. 80 And the child was growing and becoming strong in spirit, and was in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: You can trust the Lord to fulfill His promises.

Lesson #2: The Lord will always do exactly what He says He will do.

Lesson #3: For no word from God shall be impossible.

Lesson #4: Is your soul magnifying the Lord today and your spirit rejoicing in God your Savior?

Lesson #5: What great things has He done for you?

Lesson #6: Jesus came to bring the knowledge of salvation and the forgiveness of sins. Have you come to know Christ as Savior?

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**


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**STUDY NUMBER FOUR – TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT – PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11****NOTES**

v. 1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if there is any solace afforded by love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if there is any affection and sympathy,

v. 2 make full my joy in order that you may be thinking the same thing, having the same love, united in spirit, thinking the one thing.

v. 3 Doing nothing from selfish ambition or from empty conceit, but with humility of mind regarding one another as excelling themselves;

v. 4 not looking out each one for his own interests, but also each one the interests of others.

v. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

v. 6 who, existing in the form of God, looked not upon this being equal with God a prize to be grasped eagerly,

v. 7 but emptied Himself, having taken the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men.

v. 8 And being found in outward appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, having become obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

v. 9 Therefore also God exalted Him to the highest place, and graciously bestowed upon Him the name which is above every name,

**NOTES**

v. 10 in order that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,  
v. 11 and that every tongue should confess (plainly and openly agree) that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: There is an emptying process in becoming a servant.

Lesson #2: Humility and obedience are top priority items for His servants.

Lesson #3: Self-denial leads to service for others.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**


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**STUDY NUMBER FIVE – FINAL FULFILLMENT – LUKE 2:21-40****NOTES****I. Born under the Law — verses 21-24**

v. 21 And when eight days were fulfilled to circumcise Him, and they called His name Jesus, which He was called by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

v. 22 And when the days of their purification were fulfilled according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord,

v. 23 even as it is written in the Law of the Lord, that every first-born male opening the womb shall be called holy of the Lord,

v. 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what has been said in the Law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

**II. Simeon — verses 25-35**

v. 25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

v. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

**NOTES**

v. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, that they might do for Him according to the custom of the law,

v. 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said:

v. 29 “Now Lord, let your bond-servant be departing in peace, according to your word;

v. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

v. 31 Which you prepared in the presence of all peoples,

v. 32 A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

v. 33 And His father and mother were marvelling at the things which were being said about Him.

v. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is set for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign to be spoken against—

v. 35 and a sword shall pass through your soul—in order that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed.”

### III. Anna — verses 36-38

v. 36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in her days greatly, having lived with a husband seven years from her virginity,

v. 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she departed not from the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

v. 38 And she, coming up at that very moment, began giving thanks to God, and continued speaking of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### IV. Going Home — verses 39-40

v. 39 And when they completed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

v. 40 Now the Child was growing and becoming strong; becoming full of wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

### LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: Obedience to the word of God ought to be our primary concern.

Lesson #2: Though Mary and Joseph were poor, they gave what they had to the Lord.

Lesson #3: Death for the believer should be a departing in peace.

Lesson #4: Salvation is wrapped up in a person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson #5: Anna, as a widow for over 60 years, became better instead of bitter through her trials.

Lesson #6: Serving the Lord with intensity can bring therapy to a broken heart.

Lesson #7: Our lives ought to be characterized by giving thanks to God and speaking for the Lord to those who will listen.

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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## **STUDY NUMBER SIX – GOD THE GREATEST GIVER – 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-15**

### **NOTES**

v. 6 Now this I am saying: “He who is sowing sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who is sowing bountifully shall also reap bountifully.  
v. 7 Let each one give just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God is loving a cheerful giver.  
v. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, in order that having always enough of everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;  
v. 9 even as it stands written: “He scattered abroad, he gave to those who are poor, his righteousness is abiding forever.”  
v. 10 Now he who is supplying seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;  
v. 11 you being enriched in everything for all generosity, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.  
v. 12 Because the ministry of this service is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but also is overflowing through many thanksgivings to God.  
v. 13 Because of the approved character of your service they are glorifying God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all.  
v. 14 While they also, with petitions on your behalf, are longing for you because of the extraordinary grace of God in you.  
v. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: Giving is an investment.

**Matthew 6:20**

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal.

Lesson #2: Giving is a private matter.

Lesson #3: The attitude in giving is more important to God than the amount of the gift.

Lesson #4: The Lord is able to supply what you need to give.

Lesson #5: A harvest of righteousness will result from your faithful giving.

Lesson #6: God is glorified and thanksgiving is expressed when we give.

Lesson #7: The greatest gift of all is the gift of the Father's Son, even Jesus Christ.

**John 3:16**

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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## **STUDY NUMBER SEVEN – THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS** **– HEBREWS 10:1-17**

### **NOTES**

#### **I. The REASON for Christmas**

v. 1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things coming, and not the image itself of the actual things, is never able by means of the same sacrifices which they are offering continually year after year, to make perfect those who are drawing near.

v. 2 Since then would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshippers, once having been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

v. 3 But in them (the sacrifices) there is a reminder of sins year by year.

v. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to be taking away sins.

#### **II. The RECORD of Christmas**

v. 5 Therefore, when He is coming into the world, He is saying: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me.

v. 6 In whole burnt offerings also for sin you took no pleasure.

v. 7 Then I said: ‘Behold, I have come, in the roll of the book it is written concerning me, to do your will, O God.’”

v. 8 After saying above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings also for sins you did not desire nor have pleasure in, which are being offered according to law.”

v. 9 Then He said: “Behold I have come to do your will.” He is taking away the first in order that He may establish the second.

v. 10 By means of which will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

#### **III. The RESULT of Christmas**

v. 11 And indeed, every priest has stood day by day performing his sacred service and time after time offering the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.

v. 12 But this Priest, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

v. 13 waiting from that time onward: Until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

v. 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

v. 15 And the Holy Spirit is also bearing witness to us; for after having said:

v. 16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I am putting my laws upon their hearts, and upon their minds I will write them.

v. 17 And their sins and their lawless deeds, I will positively not remember anymore.”

**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

Lesson #1: We have seen the REASON for Christmas. It's the sin of man and the inability of the Law to make it possible for man to gain acceptance and access into the presence of God who demands perfection.

Lesson #2: We have the RECORD of Christmas. Jesus Christ came to a body prepared for Him in order that through the offering of that body He might provide a way of salvation once for all.

Lesson #3: We have the RESULTS of Christmas. It is the forgiveness of sin and the declaration of righteousness. It is salvation for all those who will receive Jesus Christ, for by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

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