



TRACING THE SEED

TEXT:

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 7:14

"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."

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."

Tapes
Emerald Bay
New Years

THE GREATEST GIVER
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

~~★~~★ The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, I had worked them for months and they needed the air. - -"

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INTRODUCTION

X Christmas time is the time when kids and money both sprout wings.

while Shepherds washed their socks

Incidentally, Santa Claus won't be making the rounds this year. He's still down at the Internal Revenue Service trying to explain the six billion dollars he put down for gifts last year.

This is the letter of explanation he wrote:

I'm sending this note to advise you that taxes have taken away the things I find most essential. My reindeer, my workshop, my sleigh. Now I'm making my rounds on a donkey. He's old and crippled and slow, so you'll know if I don't see you Christmas, I'm out on my fanny in the snow.

X Mark told me the other day Christmas in Los Angeles is always interesting. You usually see the carolers dressed in bermuda shorts groping their way through the smog singing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."

X Christmas cards, you've got to send one to everybody and if you miss someone, you'll never live it down. Personally, I've licked so many flaps I even burp sticky.

X Christmas is also the time for giving and there are presents galore. I just bought a perfect Christmas present for my dentist, a leaky ant farm.

X One of my friends said that his wife hadn't spoken to him since Labor Day, so he figured that the least he could do was buy her a little Christmas present to show his appreciation.

X It is really fascinating the new toys they've got now for Christmas. One is called a neurotic doll. It's wound up already.

★

Thank You For the Fruit + The Spirit in
which it is Given...
(2)

One clerk said, "Here's a doll for you. It drinks, it wets and it cries." I said, "I'm not surprised."
customer

Christmas is not only a time of cards and giving, it's also a time of greetings. (One guy said, "Merry Christmas to the Christians, Happy Hanukkah to the Jews, and good luck to Madelyn Murray O'Hair.")

One of the cutest stories that I heard this year came from a group of first graders who were told to draw a picture representing Christmas. There were pictures of Santa Clauses, Christmas trees, presents and all of the other things that we relate with the Christmas season. One little fellow had drawn a picture of a Nativity scene. He had Mary, and Joseph and the shepherds coming to kneel at the stable and several of the animals standing around. Off to one side, however, he had drawn a picture of a little fat man. As the teacher looked over the would be artist's work, she noticed the little fat man off to the side and asked the question, "Who is he?" And the response of the child was, "Oh, he is round John Burgeon."

X while shepherds washed their socks by night...

My very favorite Christmas story has to do with three Aggies that went to a Christmas party and they were to come dressed up at the party for something which depicted the Christmas season. They came decked out in their yellow fireman's slickers with John Hancock red hats on. Someone quizzed them as to why they came dressed that way. Their simple reply was, "We are three wise men coming from a fire."

INTRODUCTION TO PASSAGE

Last week we studied together Mark 10:35-45. We learned that the two keys to greatness:

- 1. being a servant
- 2. being a giver

*Fulfilling our function we will
Always get A response rather than
A reaction !!*

Being servants and being stewards.

Since Christmas is a time of giving, I thought it would be good for us to consider one of the greatest passages on the subject of giving in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.

From Micah we've learned that it is out of Bethlehem that this One who is going to be King and who is eternal will be born.

And from Zechariah we have learned that he is going to come meek and lowly, riding upon a donkey. And we have seen this fulfilled in the triumphal entry of Christ into the city of Jerusalem just prior to his crucifixion.

Finally we got the glorious picture of his second coming, when they (the house of Israel) look on the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one who grieves for a firstborn son.

How often do we hear: "When E. F. Hutton speaks everybody listens?" O that we would hear the words of the prophets today and realize that the ultimate fulfillment of his second coming, just like the first, will indeed happen.

Billy Graham in his book Approaching Hoofbeats, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse begins it with a parable:

5/18/80
8:31 A.M.

"Mt. Saint Helens belched gray steam plumes hundreds of feet into the blue Oregon sky. Geologists watched their seismographs in growing wonder as the earth danced beneath their feet. Rangers and state police, sirens blaring, herded tourists and residents from an ever-widening zone of danger. Every piece of scientific evidence being collected in the laboratories and on the field predicted the volcano would soon explode with a fury that would leave the forests flattened.

"'Warning!' blared loudspeakers on patrol cars and helicopters hovering overhead. 'Warning!' blinked battery-powered signs at every major crossroad. 'Warning' pleaded radio and television announcers, shortwave and citizens-band operators. 'Warning!' echoed up and down the mountain; and lakeside villages, tourist camps and hiking trails emptied as people heard the warnings and fled for their lives.

"But Harry Truman refused to budge. Harry was the caretaker of a recreation lodge on Spirit Lake, five miles north of Mt. Saint Helens's smoke-enshrouded peak. The rangers warned Harry of the coming blast. Neighbors begged him to join them in their exodus. Even Harry's sister called

to talk sense into the old man's head but Harry ignored the warnings. From the picture-postcard beauty of his lakeside home reflecting the snow-capped peak overhead, Harry grinned on national television and said, 'Nobody knows more about this mountain than Harry and it don't dare blow up on him...'

"On the 18th day of May, 1980, as the boiling gases beneath the mountain's surface bulged and buckled the landscape to its final limits, Harry Truman cooked his eggs and bacon, fed his sixteen cats the scraps, and began to plant petunias around the border of his freshly mowed lawn. At 8:31 a.m. the mountain exploded.

"Did Harry regret his decision in that millisecond he had before the concussive waves, traveling faster than the speed of sound, flattened him and everything else for 150 square miles? Did he have time to mourn his stubbornness as millions of tons of rock disintegrated and disappeared into a cloud reaching ten miles into the sky? Did he struggle against the wall of mud and ash fifty feet high that buried his cabin, his cats and his freshly mowed lawn--or had he been vaporized (like 100,000 people at Hiroshima) when the mountain erupted with a force 500 times greater than the nuclear bomb which leveled that Japanese city?

"Now Harry is a legend in the corner of Oregon where he refused to listen. He smiles down on us from posters and T-shirts and beer mugs. Balladeers sing a song about old Harry, the stubborn man who put his ear to the mountain but would not heed the warnings."

Rev. 22:18-20

"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book. If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part in the tree of life and from the Holy city which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, Yes, I am coming quickly. Amen. Come Lord Jesus."

~~THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE BOOK OF HEBREWS~~

~~Hebrews 10:1-17/~~

INTRODUCTION:

'Twas the night before Jesus came

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through
the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

TRACING THE SEED TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

P.3

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."

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2. Genesis 12:1-3

Land
Abraham

"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."

→ God helps those who help themselves!

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3. Genesis 17:19

Seed
Isaac

"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.'"

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4. Genesis 28: 14, 15

Jacob

"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."

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5. Genesis 49:10

Rule
Judah

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

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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, ~~And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons on Sheth.~~"

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7. II Samuel 7:8-16

Born A King!
David
Kingdom

"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 form before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. I 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 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 form 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.'"

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8. Psalm 16:10
"For Thou wilt not abandon my soul to Sheol; Neither wilt Thou allow Thy Holy One to see the pit."

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9. Psalm 22:1, 14-18
"My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken 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."

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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."

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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."

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12. Isaiah 11:1
"Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit."

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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."

John The Baptist

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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.

Isaiah

14. (cont')

"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him strecken, 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 judgement 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 to be with wicked men, Yet 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."

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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.'"

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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."

483 Years!
Sir Robert Anderson

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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."

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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."

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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,

19. (Cont')
and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a first-born."
- P. 847* 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." *Gal. 4:4,5 → 400 Years!*
- P. 821* 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."
- P. 1 P. 827* 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.'"
- P. 799*
P. 766 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."
- P. 845*
P. 813 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, O 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 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."
- East Gate !!*

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~~P. 552~~ 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."

~~P. 1077~~ 26. Revelation 22:1-7

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Rev. 19:11 And I saw heaven opened.

"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 much shortly take place. "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

~~P. 1078~~ 27. Revelation 22:14

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"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."

~~P. 1033~~ Titus 3:5

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"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;"

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~~P. 600~~ 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."

Amos 4:12 Prepare to meet Your God!
John 14:1-6
Titus 2:12,13

The Christmas Tree

"It was Christmas Eve morning, 1941, at Dunn's Dairy Farm in North Texas. Mac and Jack are down at the barn throwing hay out of the loft to the cows, Mama is feeding corn to the chickens, and Dad is on his way to get me out of bed. It was a day I have never been able to forget."

"Wake up! Wake up, you little sleepy head.
It's time to cut that Christmas tree," old Dad said.

Under a quilted mountain I greeted the dawn.
With sleep filled eyes and a great big yawn.

"It's that time already?" I mumbled slow.

"Yep, and looks like we got to cut it in the snow."

"Snow!" I yelled, kicking quilts left and right.

"Yep," said Dad, "Looks like it snowed all night."

I hopped and skipped across the cold wood floor,
Out my room and opened the porch door.
Like soft cotton velvet spread everywhere,
Brightly sun-kissed and shadowed here and there,
There lay the yard, the fields, and barns,
The trees lightly strung with white yarns,
The fences, the creekline, the fluffy hills,
And the haystacks sitting like big white pills.

"Now shut the door and come on in, Son,
We'll go out when breakfast is done."

Biscuit and bacon flavors filled the air,
While I got dressed and combed my hair.
Then I joined Dad and Mama, Mac and Jack,
For a meal that made others look like a snack.
They had already milked eighty head of cows,
Fed the chickens, got the eggs, and slopped the sows.

A giant plate of bacon and two bowls of eggs,
Two big pans of biscuits and syrup in kegs,
A platter of butter and two pitchers of milk,
With that snow outside like satin and silk,
The aroma of hot coffee, talk of chores and work,
Mama fussing and busy like a Saturday night clerk.
Right after eating, Mac and Jack went to town
To deliver the raw milk on their regular round.

"Now get your coat, Son, let's be on our way.
We'll find the finest tree out there today."

Mama stopped all her kitchen work and said,

"Now before you go out you make up your bed,
And wear your galoshes and put a hat on your head.
I got too much to do without you turning up dead!"

Mama bundled me up so heavy and snug,
Then gave me a kiss and a great big hug.

Dad and I started out walking real fast.
He didn't say where to and I didn't ask.
Past the smokehouse and the dairy barn,
The chicken houses, hog pen, and hay barn,
We made our way toward the pasture land,
Stomping single file as if to a band.
I carried the hatchet and Dad the axe,
As we moved west with the sun to our backs.

"Dad, You gonna let me cut it down?"

"Do I let you go with me to town?
You betcha! We'll find one just right for you.
I'm counting on you to chop it clean through!"

"Oh Dad, I'll do it real good, you can bet.
You ain't ever seen a chopper like me yet!"

"Well, them old evergreens are awful tough,
But I won't help unless it really gets rough."

We came to the creek with iced-over pools,
Just trickles of water in the middle and slews.
We stepped across on a rotting old log
And a couple of rocks near the springtime bog.
Nudging the crystal grass that lay by the bank,
We trudged our way past an old stock tank.

Where Dad was going then I could see,
A line of evergreen right in front of me.

This was part of the farm I'd never seen,
This slope with the line of evergreen.
I caught up with Dad and got ahead.

"Be careful with that hatchet!" Old Dad said.

As fast as I could, I went from tree to tree,
Saying at each one, "This one looks great to me!"
In and out that line of trees, I ran and ran,
Laughing and yelling, "This is great! This is grand!"

Then, I saw it near the top of the hill,
 Standing tall and straight, perfectly still.
 Like a picture of a Christmas card scene,
 Or a painting from the cover of a POST magazine,
 On a stout trunk sat that triangle of green,
 The most beautiful Christmas tree I'd ever seen.
 It commanded respect from its place on the slope
 And made me think of beauty, power and hope.
 When Dad caught up, I was just standing there.
 All I could do was just look and stare.
 It towered before me like a majestic king.

"My, my, ain't that one there a pretty thing.
 I think it'll just fit." I heard Dad say.
 "Best get started if we're to finish today."

Up to that tree and around the other side,
 Old Dad trudged with the axe by his side.
 After sizing it up for a little bit,
 He began to chop and I hurt when he hit.
 A few of the lower limbs he cut away,
 Knotched the trunk, then turned to me to say,
 "There's the bare trunk. Are you ready to start?"
 I stepped forward with sorrow in my heart.
 Tears welled up in my eyes to see that tree,
 Knowing that it was hurting because of me.
 At Dad's urging I started in on one side,
 But everytime I hit it, I thought I'd die.

Then I threw down the hatchet, yelling, "I can't!
 Oh Dad, I can't! I just can't! I just can't!
 Who am I to kill it? Oh, who am I?
 How could anybody want this tree to die?
 It's too lovely and great to be chopped down.
 Can't we go and buy one back in town?"

Old Dad stood there, looking down at me.
 With tear-blurred eyes, I could barely see,
 When he stepped over and held me tight.
 Although it was daytime, for me it was night.
 The harder I tried to stop, the more I cried,
 While Dad hugged me closer to his side.
 How long we stood there, I still don't know,
 A grandpa and a crying little boy in the snow.

"It's too late, Son, I really hate to say.
 We've already cut it too much of the way.
 I would've bought you every tree in town,
 If only I'd known this would get you down.
 Wouldn't it be better than leavin' it to die
 To carry it to the house with you and I?
 I'll build it a good base so it can stand tall.
 We'll put it by the front living room wall."

"Will it really die out here, no matter what?"

"Yes, Son, it will and it'll suffer a lot."

"If we take it home, won't it die there too?"

"But not alone. It'll be there with me and you."

"Oh, Dad, I don't want to see it again.
This thing I've done is a real bad sin."

"I'm glad that you've got a tender heart,
But now you've got to be a man and do your part."

"Okay, Dad, if that's what I got to do,
But the rest of the chopping is up to you."

Dad took his axe while I turned my back
And I heard the cruel echoes of crack, crack, crack!
Then I watched as the tree fell to the snow,
And heard Dad saying, "Now get the top, Son, let's go."

As we walked away I looked back at the slope.
Gone was the tree of beauty, power, and hope.

On the way back, Dad didn't say much,
And I choked everytime I felt the tree's touch.
It's branches would bounce as we carried it along,
Brushing my face and I'd feel anew the wrong.
We stopped by the barn, bleak as a bone,
And Dad made a cross for the tree to sit on;
Then on to the house and the living room,
Standing up the tree for its final doom.

There it stood, its regal nobility gone,
Dead and dying, sacrificed for a song,
A tune for Christmas, for fun, gifts and cheer;
But it had lost its life which had to be dear.

"It looks very nice there, don't it, Son?"

"No, Dad, it's a real bad thing I've done.
It had to be happier up there on the hill
Than sitting in this house, dying and still."

I ran to my room and fell on my bed,
Grieving for the tree that now was dead.
Dad followed and sat down by my side,
While Mama took a chair, breathed and sighed.

"Now, Son, I reckon I know how you feel,
But can I tell you about some things that are real?"

Now, I knew Dad had wisdom, was kind and good.
I'd always listen to him like I knew I should.

I know you know a lot about Jesus Christ,
 How He's God's Son, our Saviour, the Christ.
 What we did to this tree was done to Him,
 And He didn't fight them that were hurting Him.
 Just like this tree gave in to our axe,
 He gave Himself up to the pain that wracks.
 He suffered that death for you and Mama and me
 To save us and open our eyes to see.
 Upon a throne like that tree on the slope,
 He willingly came down to become our hope.
 At Christmas time we celebrate His birth,
 But He really came to die for us here on earth;
 For all--rich, poor, man, woman, girl, and boy--
 To give each of us a life filled with joy.
 This tree did that and you'll see on the morn.
 When we celebrate the day that Christ was born."

Dad left the room and I curled up real tight,
 And Mama said, "Tomorrow, you'll see Dad is right."

Mac and Jack came by and Mama and Dad too,
 But I cried and hurt the whole night through.
 I wouldn't help them decorate the tree,
 Just the pain and death was all I could see;
 No supper, no dessert, no cookies or treats;
 Only the tear-soaked pillow that grief often meets.

It was about dawn, I think, when I awoke,
 Lifting my head from a pillow that was soaked.
 There was a dim gray light coming in from outside
 And nothing moving and all quiet inside.
 I got up and tip-toed to the living room.
 What I saw was not pain and death or doom!

Decorated with balls, lights, all sorts of things,
 That tree just glowed with an aura that sings!
 All around the base were packages and gifts,
 The pain and hurt lost in the spirit that lifts.
 Dad and Mama came in, so did Mac and Jack,
 And we all stood there gazing, taken aback.

"Dad, I think I see what you mean.
 We took it from that line of evergreen
 And, although it had to give up its life,
 It now brings great joy into our life."

"Just like Jesus Christ, my dear Son,
 He came to do a job and got it done."

I looked back at that tree, sensed its joy,
 And knew He'd died for me too, only a boy.

That was a Christmas a long time ago,
 But it stuck in my head in a way you'll know.
 It sunk its roots way down in me deep
 And gave me this treasure that I can't but keep--
 I was never again to look at a tree
 Without thinking of Christ Who died for me.