

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Christmas

Introduction

Like an ever-flowing stream, the days of the year pass, and for many life has changed. There are empty seats this year that had loved ones last year, decisions have had to be made that we never thought of having to make last Christmas. Life has had its changes, marriages, engagements, separations, divorces, deaths, birthdays, all have gone and now it is Christmas. Many will be alone, some almost forgotten, for homeless people it will be just another day, for those who have suffered and lost so much or all because of the fires, floods, and hurricanes, it will in many ways be a very sad Christmas.

Without a doubt, bright shining lights will be seen across the world. There will be Christmas parties, children's eyes will shine with excitement, loved ones reunited, carols will be sung and store owners will have sales making for them lots of money.

Yet to a great extent, one thing will be missing, that being, the consideration of why we celebrate Christmas with gifts. Ideally, we are to contemplate the joy that came into this tired old world, both the birth of the Son of God in Bethlehem and the reason He came.

In this paper is a consideration of, "Who came down? What is meant by His coming down? Why He came down? Did He have to come down?" and the truth of what He became when He came down.

Who came down?

It is now many years since I first heard the hymn:

"Down from the glory, ever living story,
My God and Saviour came, and Jesus was His name.
Born in a manger, to His own a stranger,
That man of sorrows tears and agony.

There are times in life when something must be done. It is of such importance that no one could be fully depended on to accomplish that which was needed. The result was that we did it ourselves. This is in a very small way the situation God faced, the work of providing eternal salvation not just for a few, but for whosoever, without consideration of clime, culture, or country. To be able to provide a way of assured deliverance for the whosoever of ever being cast into the Lake of Fire, to provide such an efficacious cleansing for sins that they would never be brought up again. Who could God entrust with such a work, a work that could be done single-handedly and had to be perfect the first time having no

contingency plan? It was a work He had to do Himself. Therefore, the Son of God, God's identical co-equal, personally sent no angel to do it but offered Himself. He could have the words of Isaiah, "Here am I; send me" (Isa. 6:8), and so the Father sent the Son. God was doing a work at Calvary when the scriptures record, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Cor. 5:19), and again when stated, "Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). In contrast to the deity of the Lord as emphasized in Acts 20:28, the writer to the Hebrews specified the humanity of the Lord, "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12), and John the writer of Revelation wrote, "From Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5).

What is meant by His coming down?

Moses came down from the mountain (Ex. 34:29), Barzillai came down from Rogelim (2 Sam. 19:31), but no one ever came down like the Lord. His "coming down" was not only the coming from one geographical place to another, it was:

- a) A coming down of status, He became a Servant. (Phil. 2:7)
- b) The One who was the possessor of Heaven (Isa. 6:8); and Earth asked for a penny. (Lk. 20:24)
- c) The One who is the Lord of glory became the object of mockery. (Isa. 53:3, 7)
- d) The one who was adored became the object of derision. (Matt. 9:12)

The scriptures of truth inform the readers, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:6). The Son of God, in infinite love and compassion, left the environment of sinless perfection where He was adored by an untold number of celestial beings. His praises were sung celebrating His abilities (Job 38:7). He knew nothing of sorrow or tears, nothing of derision and mockery, nothing of humiliation and scorn. Then the wonder of it all is that He knew before He left Heaven all that would befall Him.

Why did He come down?

The following are some of the scriptures which enable us to understand why He came down:

- a) To destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn. 3:8)
- b) To take away our sins (1 Jn. 3:5)
- c) That we might live through Him (1 Jn. 4:9)
- d) To be the Saviour of the World (Jn. 4:42)
- e) To be the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn. 4:10)
- f) To seek and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10)
- g) To destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Heb. 2:14)
- h) To send fire on the earth (Lk. 12:49)
- i) To be baptized at Calvary (Lk. 12:50)
- j) Not to send peace (Matt. 10:34)
- k) To enable men to be reconciled to God (Rom. 5:10)
- l) To fulfil the parable of those left to care for the vineyard (Lk. 20:13)

What He became when He came down.

Christ was made:

- a) Incarnation
 - i) "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Gal. 4:4)
- b) Designation
 - i) "Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh." (Rom. 1:3)
- c) Identification
 - i) "Wherefore in all things, it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." (Heb. 2:17)
- d) Humiliation
 - i) "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:7)

- e) Substitution
 - i) “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree” (Gal. 3:13)
- f) Obligation
 - i) “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son . . . made under the law” (Gal. 4:4)
- g) Reconciliation
 - i) “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21)

This Christmas may we receive a greater blessing than any earthly gift, that of a divine enlightenment to the infinite wonder and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

. . . . *Rowan Jennings*

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