

WE ARE WAITING FOR JESUS ON CHRISTMAS

God's Promise

"I am coming."

Psalm 40:7

My Promise

"On this Christmas, I will be waiting for you."

Bible Reading Psalm 40:4-10

OPENING

I remember when I was a child in Mexico, something special was going to happen. My elementary school was close to the airport and on one occasion, the President of the Country was going to go by one of the main streets that was nearby. He was going to be accompanied by another president from another country. What it all meant was that someone special was going to come. The principal of the school decided that as students, we were going to sing "Ode to Joy" Some may remember it. The first stanza goes like this:

"Listen my brother to the song of happiness,

The happy song of he who hopes

For a new day. Come sing, dream singing

Live dreaming the new sun

In which the men

Will return to be brothers."

We practiced for several weeks and when the day came, we stood on the parade route and someone shouted, "They are coming!" We started singing but the parade was going so fast that we only got to sing the first line of the song. Just as they arrived so quickly they were gone, but we kept singing until the end. We still laugh about the incident when we waited for someone of great importance and they did not even know we were there, much less singing for them.

**Activity: Ask the question to everyone in your home: What song
Does Christmas remind you of your childhood? And why?**

CHRISTMAS IS DRAWING NEAR - Psalm 40:7

Then I said, "Here I am, I have come- it is written about me in the scroll.

Today we begin the journey of several weeks of waiting with anticipation on a celebration of great importance. It is the time of celebration of the birth of the Savior of the world - Jesus. For many nostalgia has already set in because quickly, Christmas will be here and it will be over just as quickly as the presidents who visited our country so many years ago.

Now imagine the person who wrote Psalm 40, hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. This Psalm contains some verses that describe Jesus announcing His own coming. "I am coming..." Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the author writes this phrase maybe without knowing that one day Christmas would come to the world.

THE BIBLE ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS - Psalm 40:7b

It is written about me in the scroll.

Passages like Isaiah 7 and 9, Micah 5, Genesis 3:15 and many others are a part of the "scroll" where the coming of Jesus is announced. In these writings, little by little we can see how the coming of Jesus is described:

Isaiah 7:14, 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.

Isaiah 9:6, 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.

Micah 5:2, But you, Bethlehem Ephrata, through 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.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Time goes by but Christmas always arrives. Each year we take time to celebrate this great event. This year is no different. Wait for it with anticipation and great emotion.

THE AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE ANNOUNCED THE BIRTH OF JESUS - Psalm 40:4-6

The prophesies about the birth of Jesus is announced some 330 times. Authors like Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel, and Micah predict the coming of a man that was going to change the direction of humanity for all of eternity. In them the Holy Spirit moved in order to announce that one day every one of those prophesies would be fulfilled. Psalm 40 reminds us that whoever places their trust in the Lord could celebrate Christmas as it should be.

Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.

5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

6

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but my ears you have pierced burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.

The Lord does not demand anything on Christmas. He only invites us to trust in Him and celebrate His arrival.

Question: Why do you think the gifts are so significant in the Christmas? What happens when someone does not receive a gift? What happens when Is someone receiving the gift he was waiting for? How can this be applied to most important gift for Christians - Jesus?

EVEN THE ANGELS ANNOUNCE HIS ARRIVAL - Luke 1:26-33

The Bible teaches that there are beings that serve God in many capacities. We call them angels. The name simply means "messengers." These messengers fulfill the will of God and on occasions are the ones that announce an important event. One of those angels is called "Gabriel." His name means "Man of God" or "Strength of God." This Gabriel the Bible says introduces himself in this manner, "I am Gabriel, that am before God, and have been sent to speak to you, and to give you good news." (verse 19)

He was sent to announce to Mary that the promises of hundreds of years that were made by the authors of the Bible and everything that had been written about the Messiah promised was about to be fulfilled. Christmas was about to arrive at last!

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary, was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

JESUS ANNOUNCES THE PURPOSE OF HIS BIRTH - Psalm 40:8-10

8

I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

9

I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O Lord.

10

I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.

Why do we celebrate Christmas. Very easy. It is not only to celebrate with gifts and parties. It is to record that Jesus came to offer the most beautiful for humanity. His coming to the world is the best gift. Let us wait for Him with all anticipation because He is not going to just go by us like those presidents. He came to live in our hearts!

Activity: This first week of December, make a list of the spiritual and temporal things that you have gotten during Christmas thanks to the birth of Christ. Ask each member of your family: Which is the best gift that you have gotten from God after having known Jesus. (If there is someone who has not yet known Jesus personally, give them the opportunity to receive the gift of salvation.)